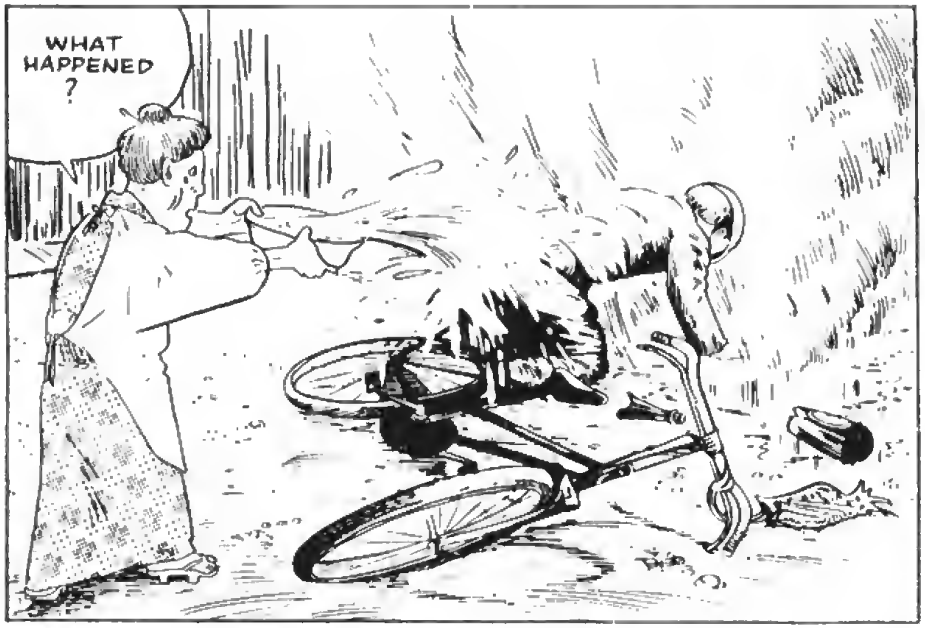
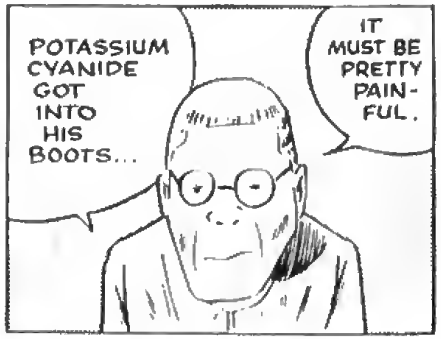

WHAT HAPPENED ?

YOUR PANTS ARE RUINED.


POTASSIUM CYANIDE GOT INTO HIS BOOTS...
IT MUST BE PRETTY PAIN-FUL.

OH, MRS. OBA. I LOST ALL THE POTASSIUM CYANIDE!

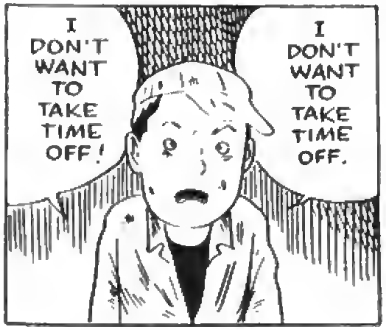
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SON. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
THE RICE CRACKER MAN LENT US SOME MONEY. IT'S O.K.

TAKE THE WEEK OFF, KID YOU'LL GET BETTER.

I'M ... I'M O.K. NOW.

I DON'T WANT TO TAKE TIME OFF.

DON'T PUSH IT KID. YOU CAN'T DO MUCH WITH SUCH A BURN.


I DON'T WANT TO TAKE TIME OFF!
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE TIME OFF.

AT LEAST LET ME STAY HERE IN YOUR ROOM, MR. MIYOSHI, UNTIL I GET BETTER.
DON'T BE DIFFI-CULT.

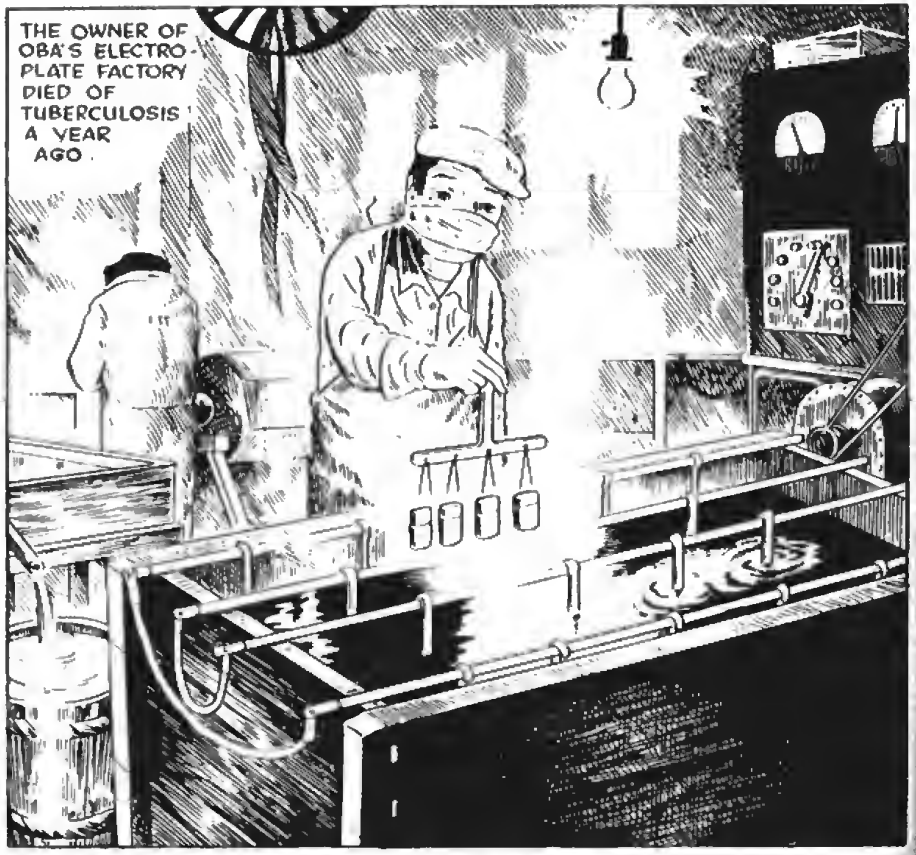
* Editors' note: censored by artist for Japanese publication.

MY LEG'S ALL BETTER.
I DON'T THINK MRS. OBA AND MR. MIYOSHI ARE HOME.
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALONE?
?
THEY LEFT IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT.
AND YOU?
DEAD OF NIGHT...
I HEARD THAT THEY WERE HEAVY IN DEBT.
SHE HAD TO SELL THE PLACE.

WHAT ABOUT MR. MIYOSHI?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SON...
THE TWO OF THEM RAN AWAY.
TO-GETHER.
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO COME HERE ANY MORE.
....

OBA'S ELECTROPLATE FACTORY

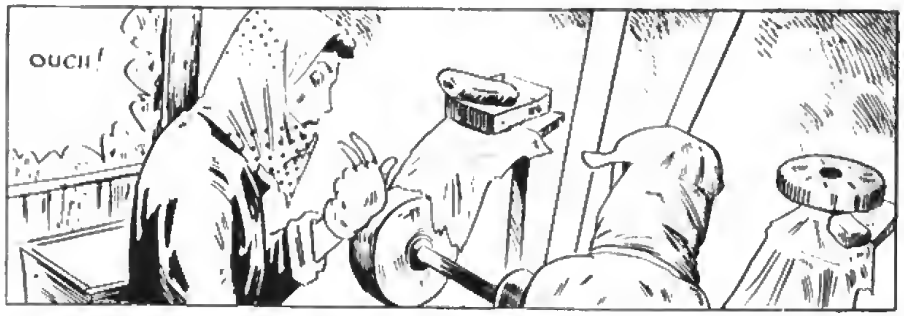
by Yoshiharu Tsuge


THE OWNER OF OBA'S ELECTRO-PLATE FACTORY DIED OF TUBERCULOSIS A YEAR AGO.

ELECTROPLATE WORKERS OFTEN GET LUNG DISEASES
HYDRO-CHLORIC ACID
Acid
POTASSIUM CYANIDE

KACHUNG
KACHUNG

AFTER HE DIED ONLY TWO PEOPLE STAYED ON: HIS WIFE AND YOSHIO, A KID WHO'D ONLY BEEN THERE FOR SIX MONTHS. TOGETHER THEY BARELY GOT BY.


OUCH!

I DID IT AGAIN!

THESE SPOONS ARE SO HARD TO GRIND. IT'S HARDLY WORTH IT.

LET'S HAVE SOME LUNCH YOSHIO.
O.K. I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.

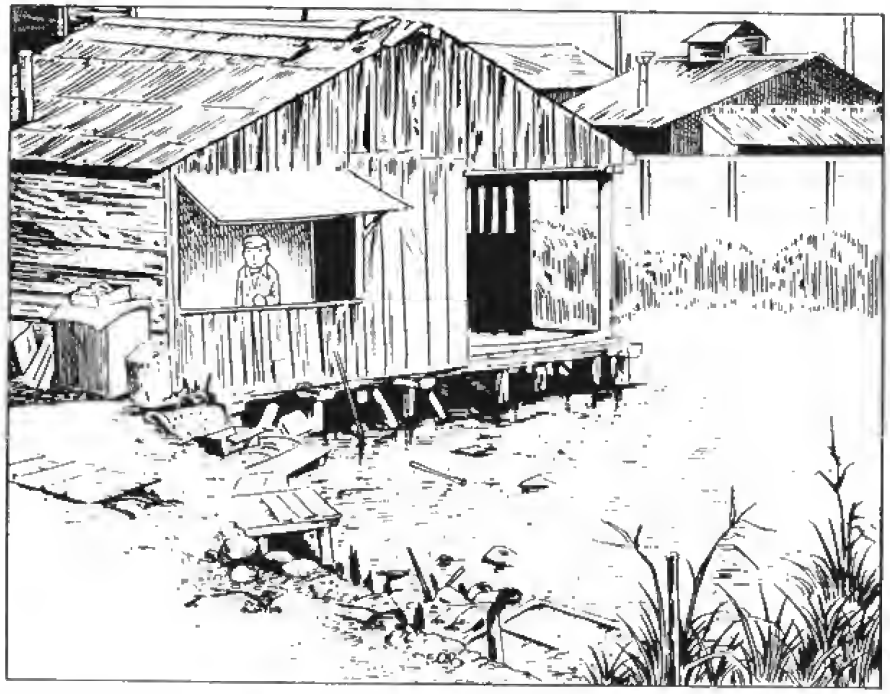
SWACK
SWACK
UGH, ALL THIS DUST.

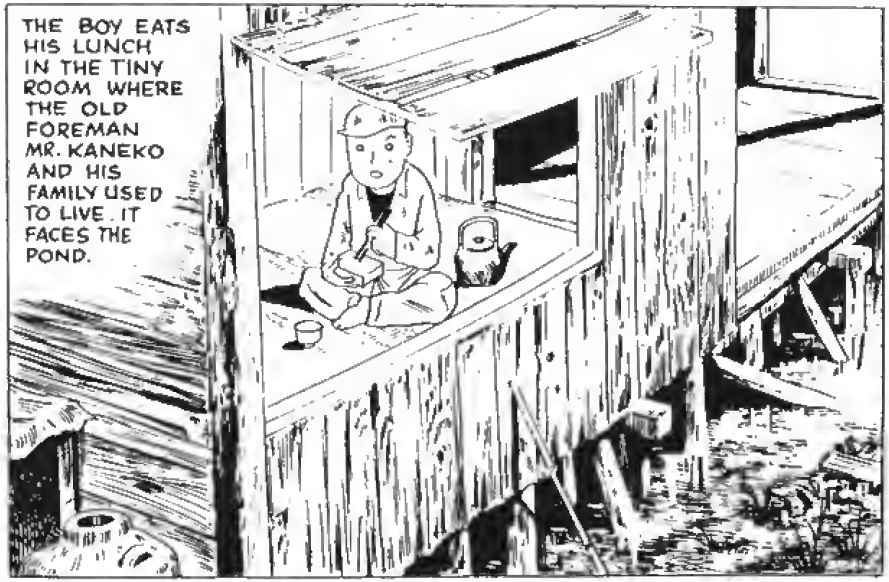
I'M GOING OUT THIS AFTER-NOON.

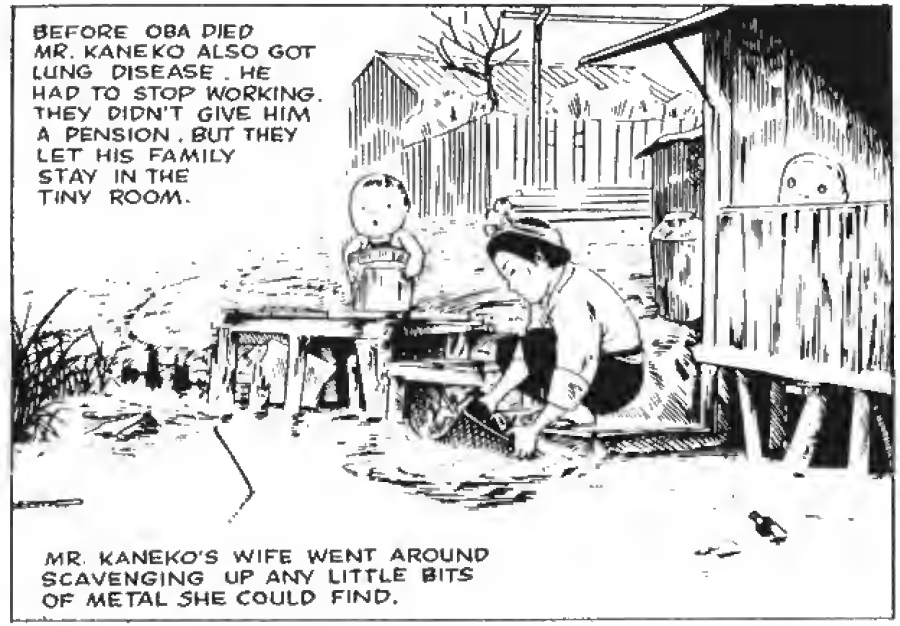
GOOD NEWS... IF EVERY-THING WORKS OUT TODAY WE MIGHT GET A NEW WORKER.

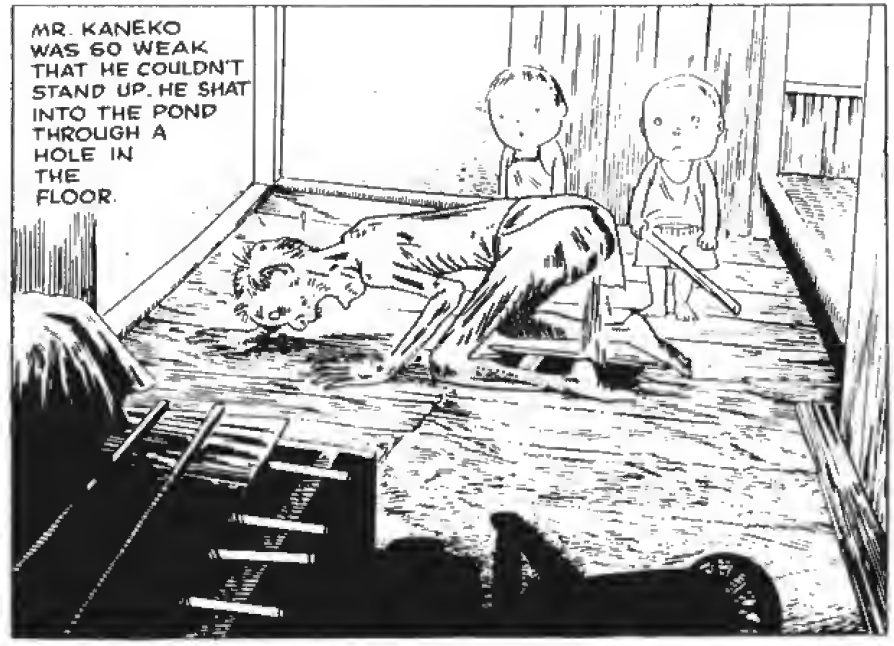
THEN MAYBE WE CAN GET SOME BIGGER JOBS.

SUB-CONTRACTING JUST DOESN'T PAY OFF.



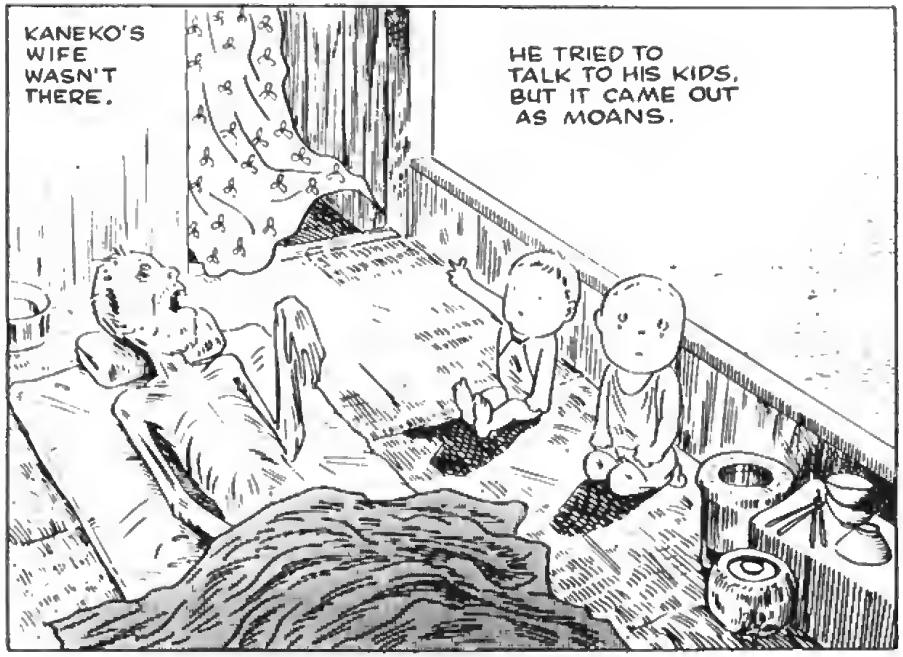

THE BOY EATS HIS LUNCH IN THE TINY ROOM WHERE THE OLD FOREMAN MR. KANEKO AND HIS FAMILY USED TO LIVE. IT FACES THE POND.


BEFORE OBA DIED MR. KANEKO ALSO GOT LUNG DISEASE. HE HAD TO STOP WORKING. THEY DIDN'T GIVE HIM A PENSION. BUT THEY LET HIS FAMILY STAY IN THE TINY ROOM.
MR. KANEKO'S WIFE WENT AROUND SCAVENGING UP ANY LITTLE BITS OF METAL SHE COULD FIND.


MR. KANEKO WAS SO WEAK THAT HE COULDN'T STAND UP. HE SHAT INTO THE POND THROUGH A HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

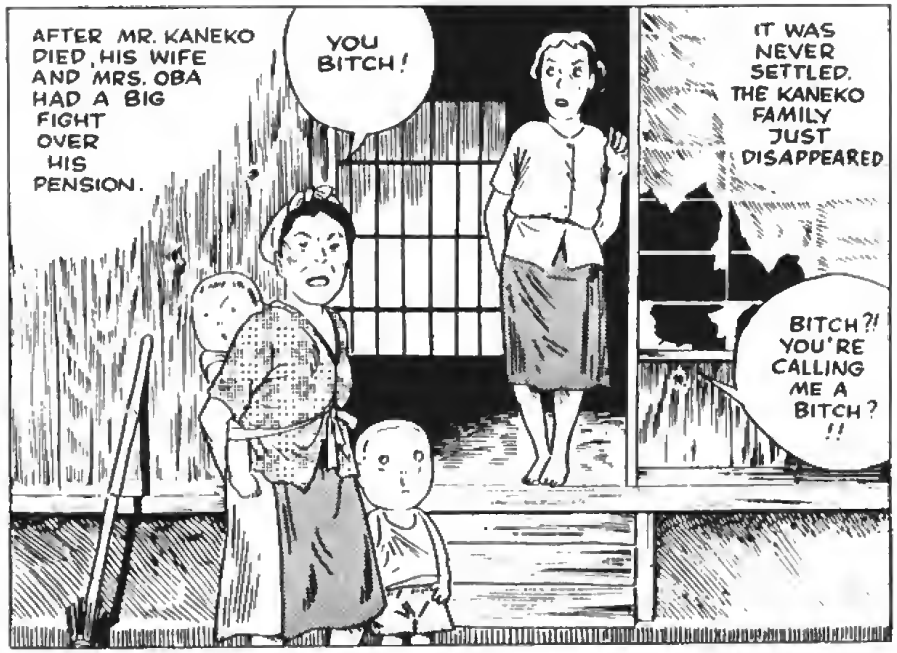
IT WASN'T JUST SHIT. IT WAS ALSO HIS ROTTING GUTS COMING OUT AND IT WASN'T JUST TUBERCULOSIS. IT WAS CHEMICAL POISONING IN HIS WHOLE BODY.
IT STINKS!

ONE MONTH AFTER YOSHIO CAME TO WORK MR. KANEKO DIED.
AKH! AKH!


KANEKO'S WIFE WASN'T THERE.
HE TRIED TO TALK TO HIS KIDS, BUT IT CAME OUT AS MOANS.

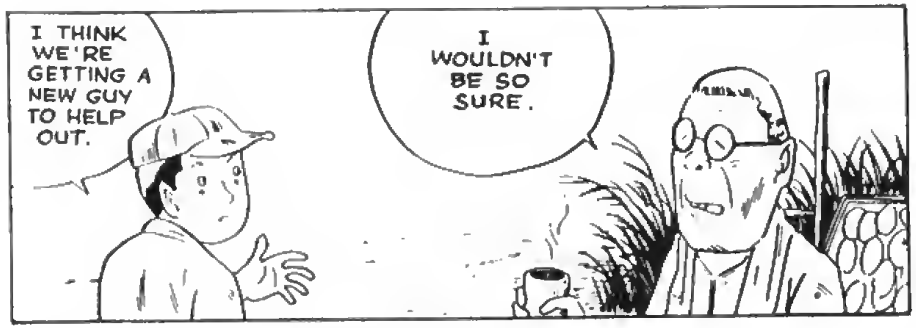
MRS. OBA! MR. KANEKO JUST DIED!

KEEP AWAY FROM THERE. THOSE GERMS ARE FLOATING AROUND EVERYWHERE.


AFTER MR. KANEKO DIED, HIS WIFE AND MRS. OBA HAD A BIG FIGHT OVER HIS PENSION.
YOU BITCH!
IT WAS NEVER SETTLED. THE KANEKO FAMILY JUST DISAPPEARED
BITCH?! YOU'RE CALLING ME A BITCH?!!

HEY YOSHIO! ARE YOU EATING LUNCH? C'MON OVER AND HAVE SOME TEA.

HOW ABOUT A NICE FRESH CRACKER?


I THINK WE'RE GETTING A NEW GUY TO HELP OUT.
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE.

THE FACTORY ISN'T EXACTLY THRIVING HA... HA... HA...
WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE 'CAREERS' AND WORK FOR ME MAKING RICE CRACKERS?

FOUR STEPS... FIVE STEPS

EIGHT STEPS... NINE STEPS.

WOW! THAT'S FANTASTIC MR. MIYOSHI

HA HA HA

HE DID LOTS OF GYMNASTICS IN BOOT CAMP.
AH! THAT EXPLAINS IT!

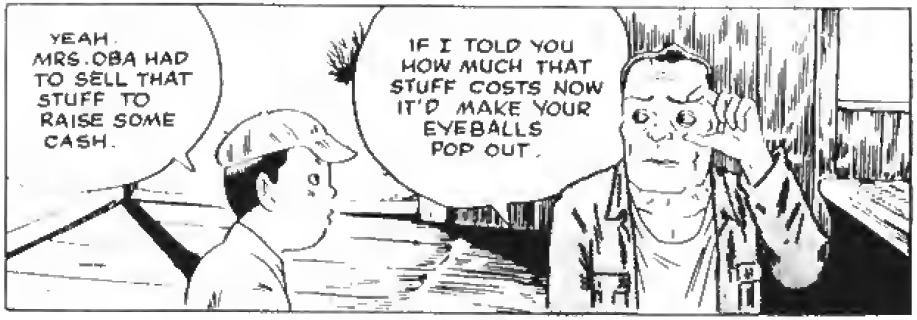
NICE ROOM, HUH? I WANTED IT MYSELF.

I FIXED UP THE AWNING.

NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, WE CAN DO REAL ELECTROPLATING AGAIN. NOT JUST GRINDING.
SURE KID.

WE STILL GOT THE TANK AND GENERATOR.

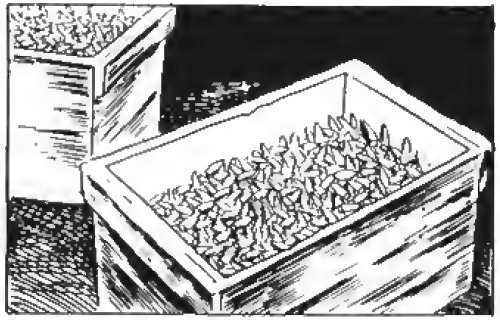
OF COURSE WE'LL MAKE MORE MONEY BY ELECTRO-PLATING.
BUT EVEN WITH THE EQUIPMENT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT SOME NICKEL AND CHROME.


YEAH. MRS. OBA HAD TO SELL THAT STUFF TO RAISE SOME CASH.
IF I TOLD YOU HOW MUCH THAT STUFF COSTS NOW IT'D MAKE YOUR EYEBALLS POP OUT.

THERE HAS BEEN A SHORTAGE OF NICKEL SINCE THE WAR IN KOREA STARTED.
WELL WE'VE JUST GOTTA EARN ENOUGH TO GET SOME.

DON'T WORRY I'LL FIND A WAY.

MR. MIYOSHI, A NEW JOB HAS COME IN.



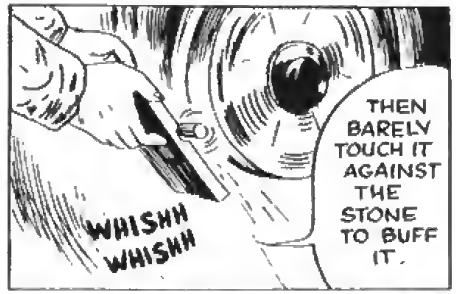
LOOKS LIKE A PISTOL BULLET.

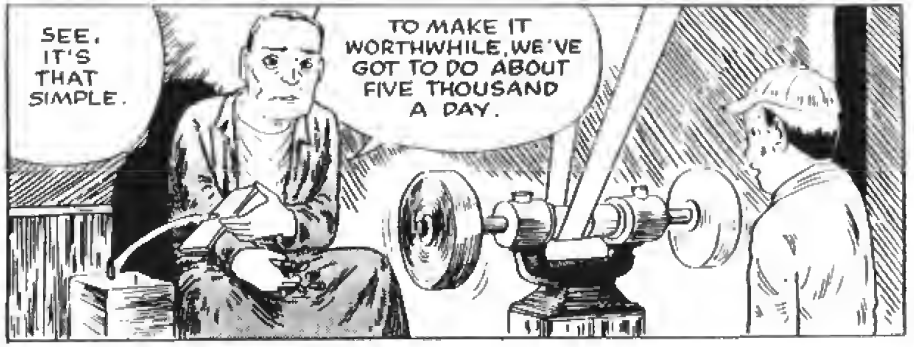
NOT EXACTLY, IT'S SHOT.
THEY PUT A LOT OF THESE IN EVERY BOMB.

THIS JOB IS FOR THE AMERICANS. THEY PAY WELL.

YEAH BUT IT'S SUB-CONTRACTED.
WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

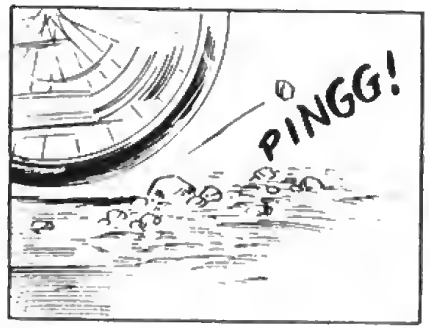
JUST PUT IT IN THE NICHE.

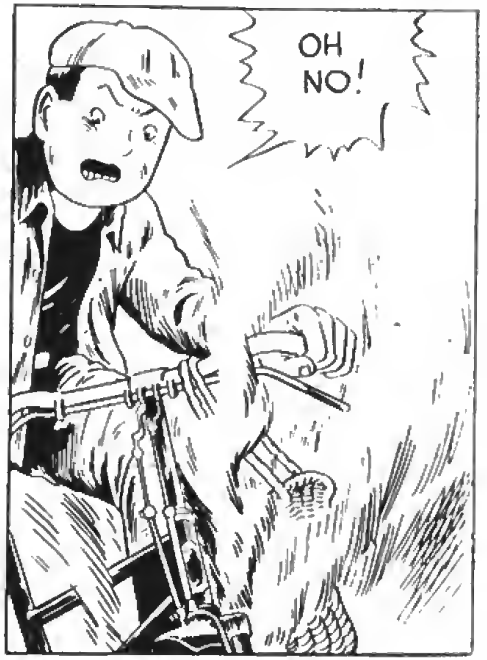

WHISHH WHISHH
THEN BARELY TOUCH IT AGAINST THE STONE TO BUFF IT.


SEE, IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE, WE'VE GOT TO DO ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND A DAY.

FIRST YOU'VE GOT TO SOAK THEM IN POTASSIUM CYANIDE. THOUGH, TO TAKE THE RUST OFF.
ROGER!
BUSINESS IS SURE PICKING UP.
HEY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY POTASSIUM CYANIDE. WE'VE ONLY BEEN WORKING IN BRASS RECENTLY.
WELL, GO BUY A JUG OF IT.
WELL, I... I'M... I'M... UH...
I SEE... I'M BROKE, TOO.
WE CAN MAKE DO WITH TWO SMALL BOTTLES IF WE DILUTE IT.

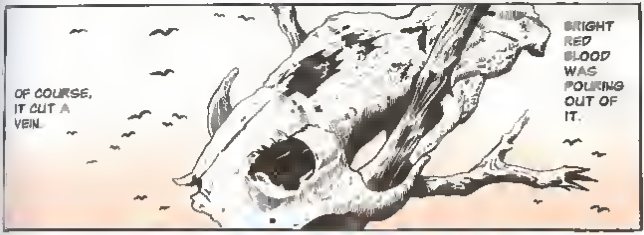
ONE BOTTLE! ONE BOTTLE IS NOT GONNA DO IT!


PINGG!


OH NO!

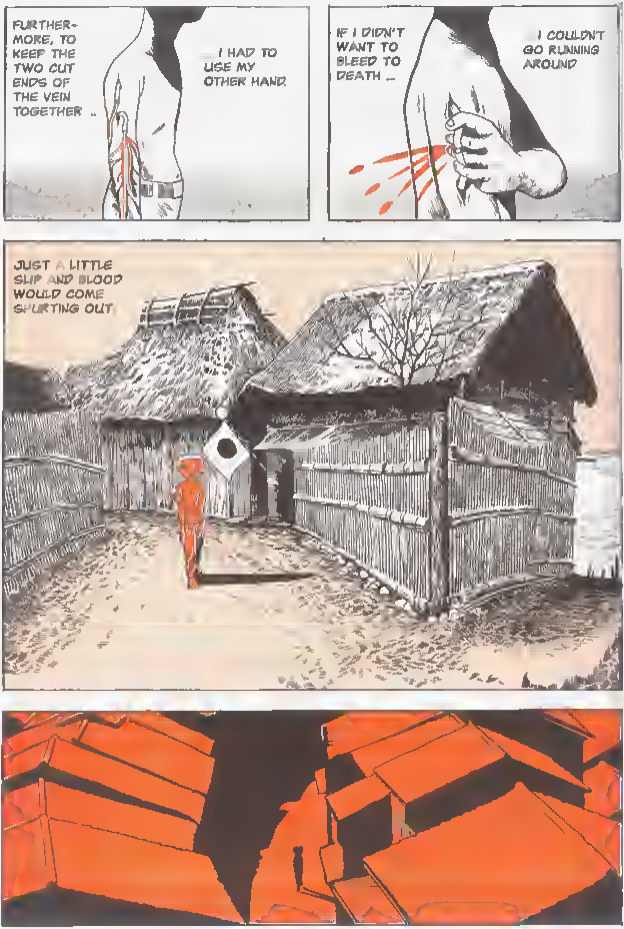
KRAKK!

I MADE IT HALF WAY TO SHORE THEN I GOT BIT ON THE ARM BY A JELLYFISH


OF COURSE, IT CUT A VEIN.
BRIGHT RED BLOOD WAS POURING OUT OF IT.

I WAS BLEEDING SO MUCH I THOUGHT I MIGHT DIE, SO I HAD TO GET TO A DOCTOR QUICK

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THIS FISHING VILLAGE. FINDING A DOCTOR WOULDN'T BE EASY.


FURTHER-MORE, TO KEEP THE TWO CUT ENDS OF THE VEIN TOGETHER ..
... I HAD TO USE MY OTHER HAND.
IF I DIDN'T WANT TO BLEED TO DEATH ...
... I COULDN'T GO RUNNING AROUND
JUST A LITTLE SLIP AND BLOOD WOULD COME SPURTING OUT!

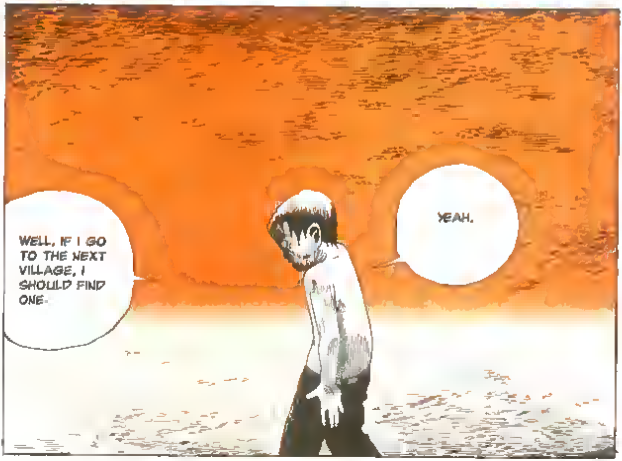
EXCUSE ME. IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
I REALLY NEED ONE I'M GETTING WORRIED.
SO, MISTER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A "DOCTOR?"

PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE A HEART, YOU'LL TAKE ME TO A DOCTOR
HMM ... I ALMOST UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.
WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY IS --
I NEED A DOC-TOR!
THIS ISN'T A JOKE -- I MIGHT DIE!
LOOK, I'M GETTING PALE!
天狗堂

* "GOBLIN HALL

** "20 KAN" (A UNIT OF WEIGHT. 1 KAN = 3.75 KG)

PLEASE -- WHERE IS THERE A DOCTOR?

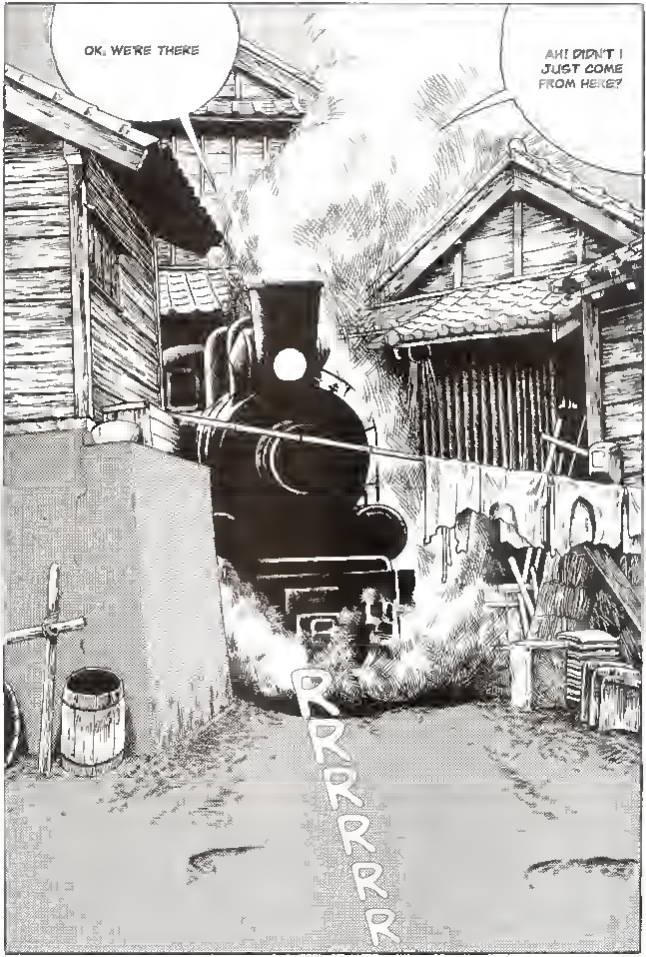

WELL, IF I GO TO THE NEXT VILLAGE, I SHOULD FIND ONE.
YEAH.

THIS ROAD'S HARD TO WALK ON
AND I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE WORRIED

LOOK AT THAT, FLIES HAVE COME SWARMING AROUND
IT'S BECAUSE MY ARM'S STARTED ROTTING.
HELLO THERE! YOU'VE COME ALONG AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME -- ARE YOU HEADED FOR THE NEXT VILLAGE?
HOP IN
CLANG! CLANG!

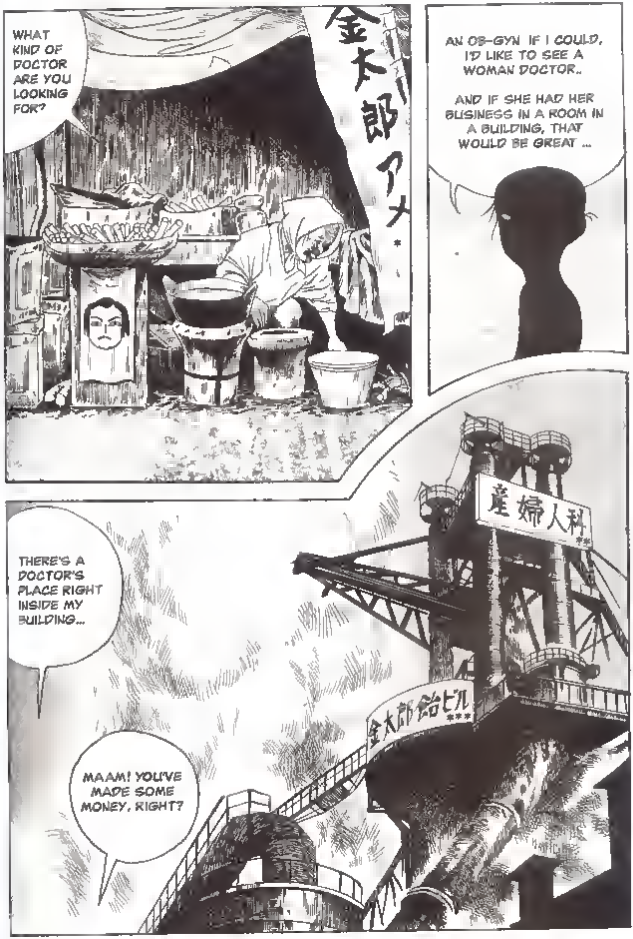
BIT ISN'T THIS TRAIN HEADED BACK IN THE SAME DIRECTION WE CAME FROM?
IF YOU WANT PROOF, LOOK IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR. THE NEXT VILLAGE IS GETTING FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY

CLOSE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU DO, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING BACKWARDS
DIDN'T THEY TEACH YOU THIS KIND OF THING IN GRADE SCHOOL?
OK, I GUESS I SHOULD JUST CALM DOWN. YOU MIGHT BE JUST A KID, BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE BACK THERE, AFTER ALL.
OH, A WIND CHIME.
THAT'S ONE OF THE NICE THINGS ABOUT SUMMER — GOING FOR A DRIVE WITH THAT SOUND RINGING ON THE WIND —
I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE MY MOTHER A GLIMPSE OF A PLACE LIKE THIS.

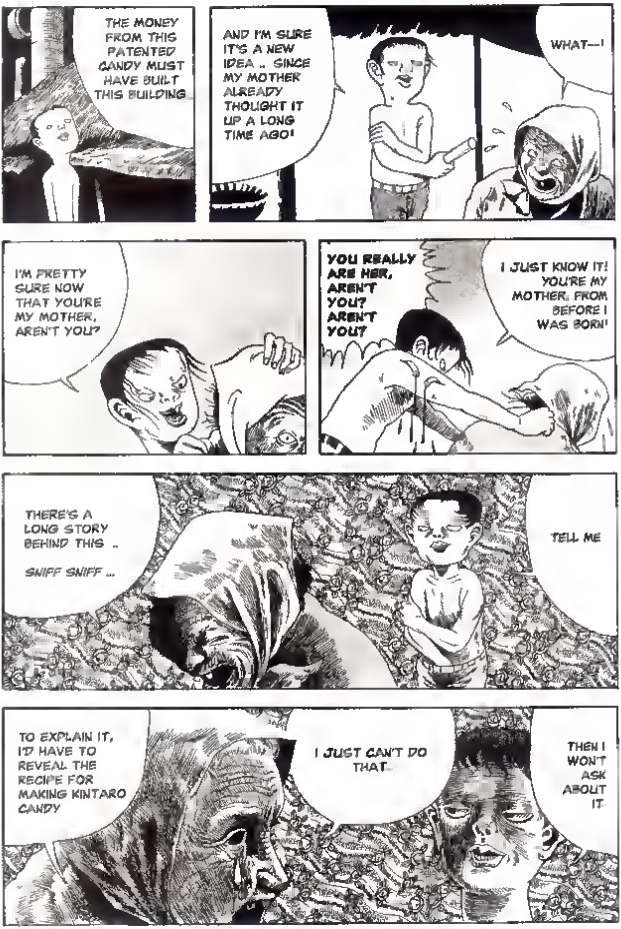

OK, WE'RE THERE
AH! DIDN'T I JUST COME FROM HERE?
RRRRRRRR

I GUESS I WAS JUST KILLING TIME. WHAT A WASTE
ALL RIGHT, THEN. THIS TIME, I'LL SEARCH THROUGH THE VILLAGE THOROUGHLY
I GUESS "THOROUGHLY" IS THE RIGHT WORD AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...
眼科
眼科
DAMMIT! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING BUT EYE DOCTORS?
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM! COULD YOU TELL ME IF THERE'S A DOCTOR IN THIS TOWN?

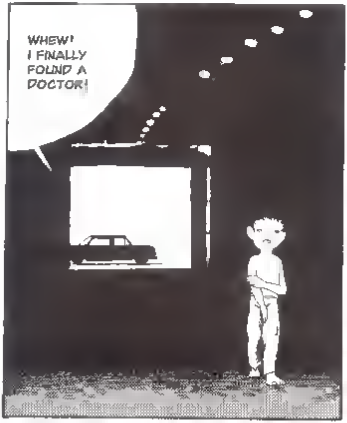
* "OPHTHALMOLOGIST"


WHAT KIND OF DOCTOR ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
金太郎アメ*
AN OB-GYN IF I COULD, I'D LIKE TO SEE A WOMAN DOCTOR..
AND IF SHE HAD HER BUSINESS IN A ROOM IN A BUILDING, THAT WOULD BE GREAT ...
産婦人科**
THERE'S A DOCTOR'S PLACE RIGHT INSIDE MY BUILDING...
金太郎飴ビル***
MAAM! YOU'VE MADE SOME MONEY, RIGHT?

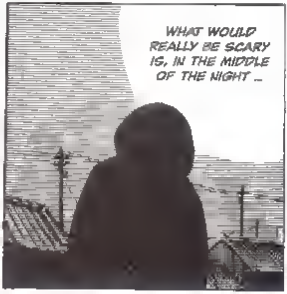
* "KINTARO CANDY" ** "OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY" *** "KINTARO CANDY BUILDING"

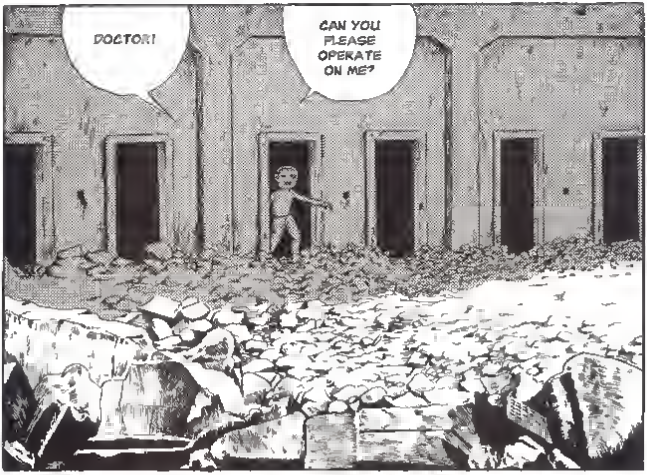

THE MONEY FROM THIS PATENTED CANDY MUST HAVE BUILT THIS BUILDING
AND I'M SURE IT'S A NEW IDEA .. SINCE MY MOTHER ALREADY THOUGHT IT UP A LONG TIME AGO!
WHAT—!
I'M PRETTY SURE NOW THAT YOU'RE MY MOTHER, AREN'T YOU?
YOU REALLY ARE HER, AREN'T YOU? AREN'T YOU?
I JUST KNOW IT! YOU'RE MY MOTHER, FROM BEFORE I WAS BORN!
THERE'S A LONG STORY BEHIND THIS ..
SNIFF SNIFF ...
TELL ME
TO EXPLAIN IT, I'D HAVE TO REVEAL THE RECIPE FOR MAKING KINTARO CANDY
I JUST CAN'T DO THAT..
THEN I WON'T ASK ABOUT IT.

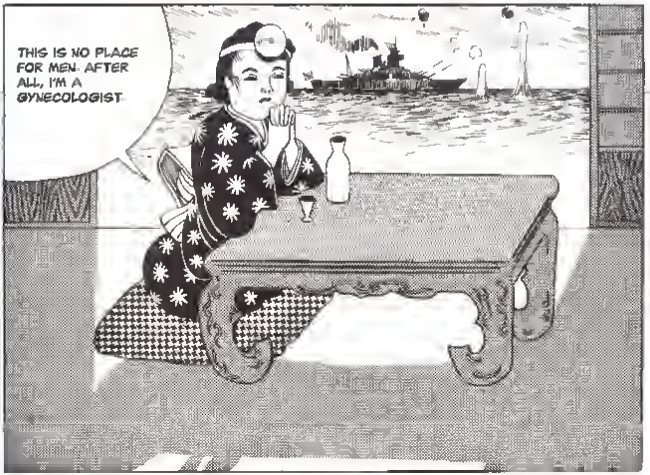
BUT THE SECRET'S GOT TO BE THIS MOMOTARO DESIGN
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT IS MOMOTARO, BUT IT'S ALSO KINTARO!
HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU.
SNAP
KINTARO!
YEAH--
SNAP
KINTARO
KINTARO.
SNAP
GOOD LUCK!
STAY WELL!

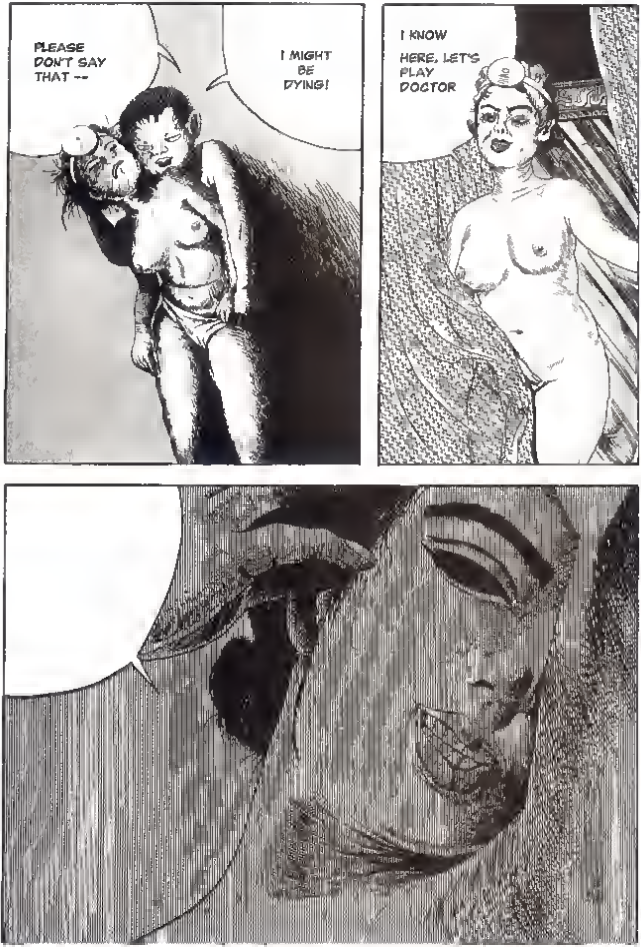


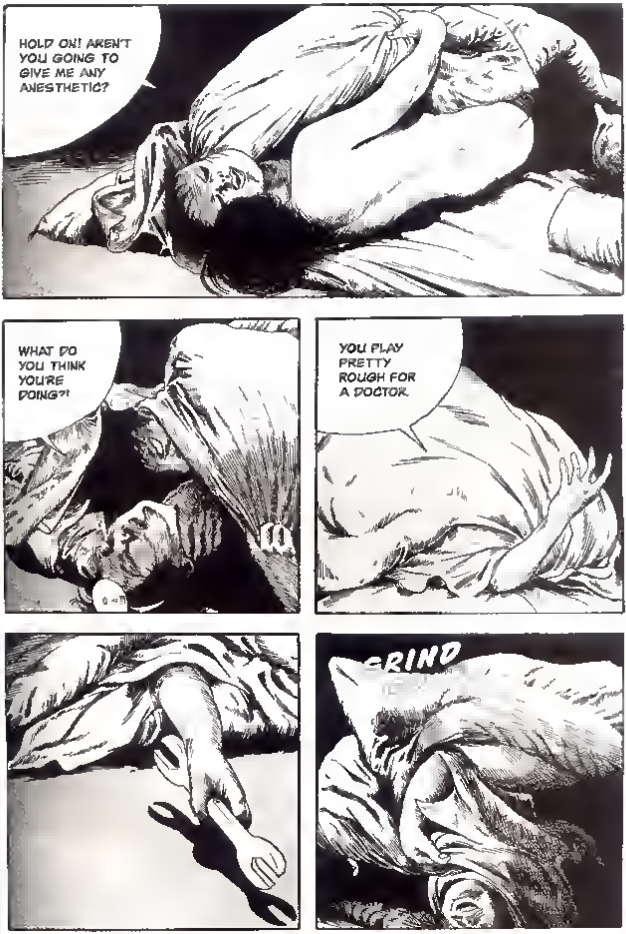
BUT IF I REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I DIDN'T FEAR DEATH ALL THAT MUCH

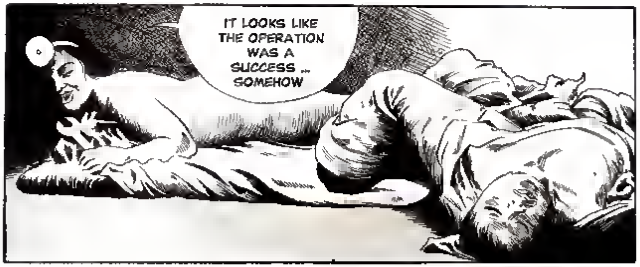


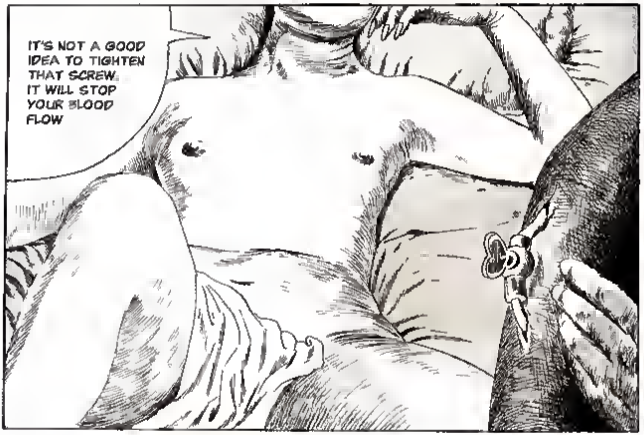

DOCTOR!
CAN YOU PLEASE OPERATE ON ME?

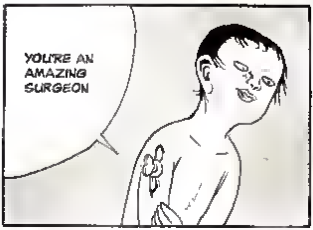

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR MEN. AFTER ALL, I'M A GYNECOLOGIST.

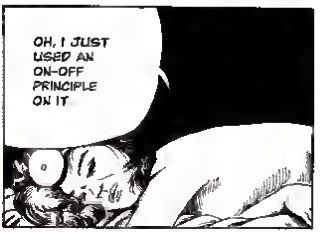

PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT --
I MIGHT BE DYING!
I KNOW
HERE, LET'S PLAY DOCTOR

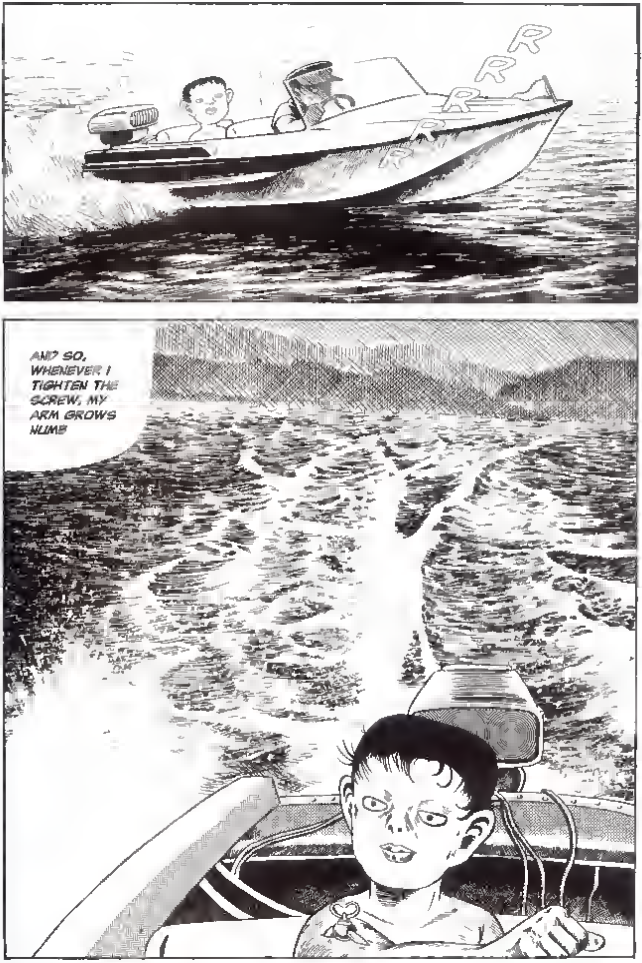

HOLD ON! AREN'T YOU GOING TO GIVE ME ANY ANESTHETIC?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU PLAY PRETTY ROUGH FOR A DOCTOR.
GRIND


IT LOOKS LIKE THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS ... SOMEHOW


IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO TIGHTEN THAT SCREW. IT WILL STOP YOUR BLOOD FLOW


YOU'RE AN AMAZING SURGEON


OH, I JUST USED AN ON-OFF PRINCIPLE ON IT


AND SO, WHENEVER I TIGHTEN THE SCREW, MY ARM GROWS NUMB

Yoshiharu Tsuge presents:

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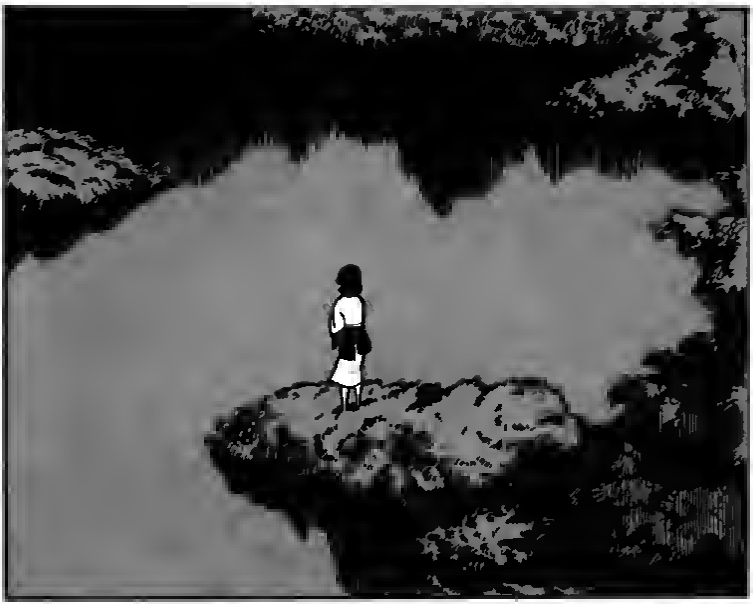
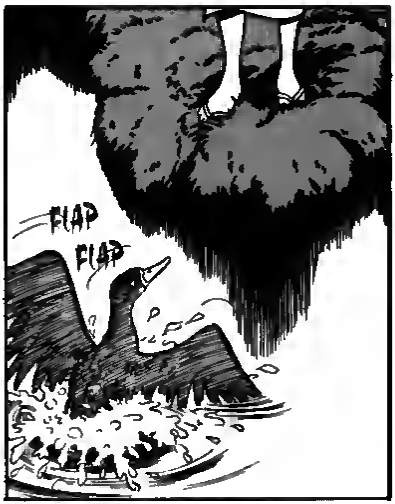
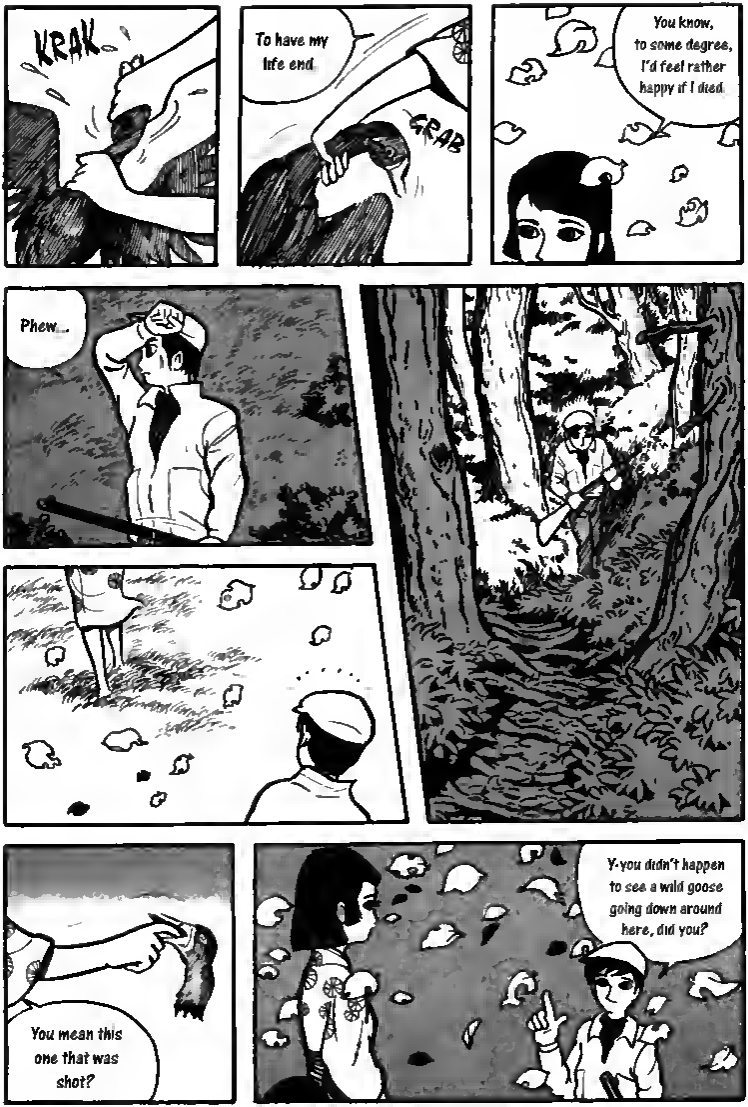
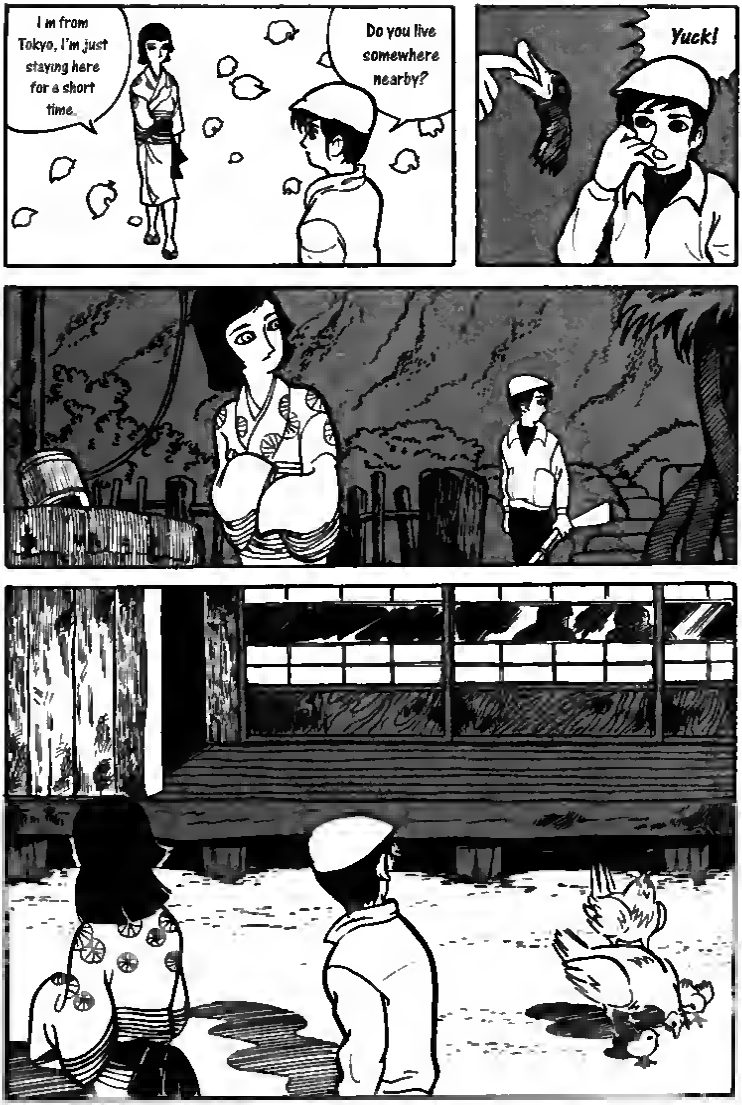


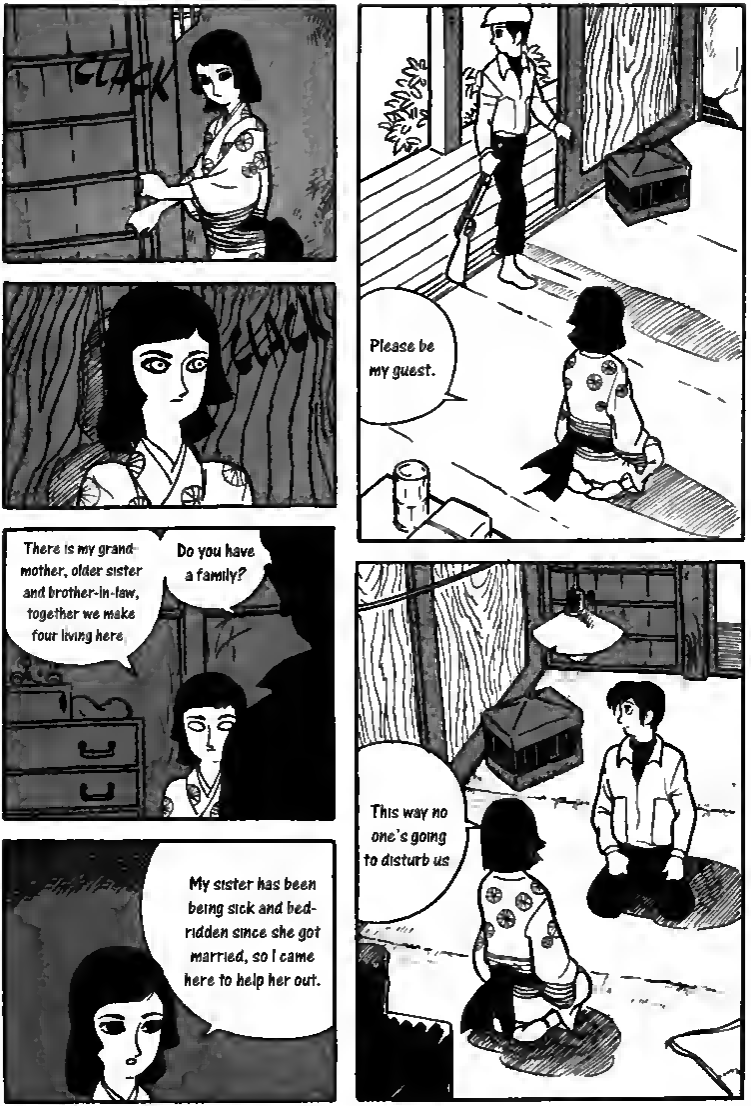
Looks like one of your wings has been shot by a bullet...

Give up. No matter how much you struggle, you won't get away


FLAP
FLAP


KRAK
To have my life end
GRAB
You know, to some degree, I'd feel rather happy if I died
Phew...
You mean this one that was shot?
Y-you didn't happen to see a wild goose going down around here, did you?


I m from Tokyo, I'm just staying here for a short time.
Do you live somewhere nearby?
Yuck!

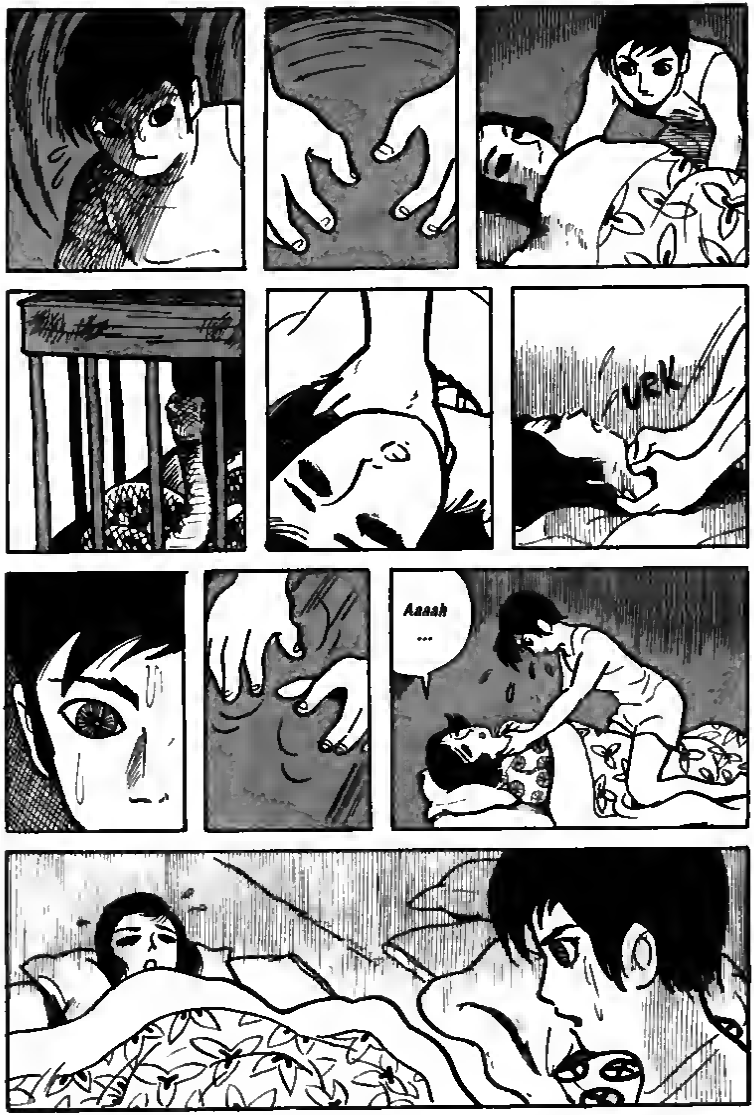

clack
clack
Please be my guest.
Do you have a family?
There is my grandmother, older sister and brother-in-law, together we make four living here.
My sister has been being sick and bedridden since she got married, so I came here to help her out.
This way no one's going to disturb us

I've always been by myself and lonely, at least that's what I used to think ..
Allow me to offer you an adequate shelter for tonight.
YIKES!!
A-a snake ...!
You don't have to be afraid. That's only my pet.

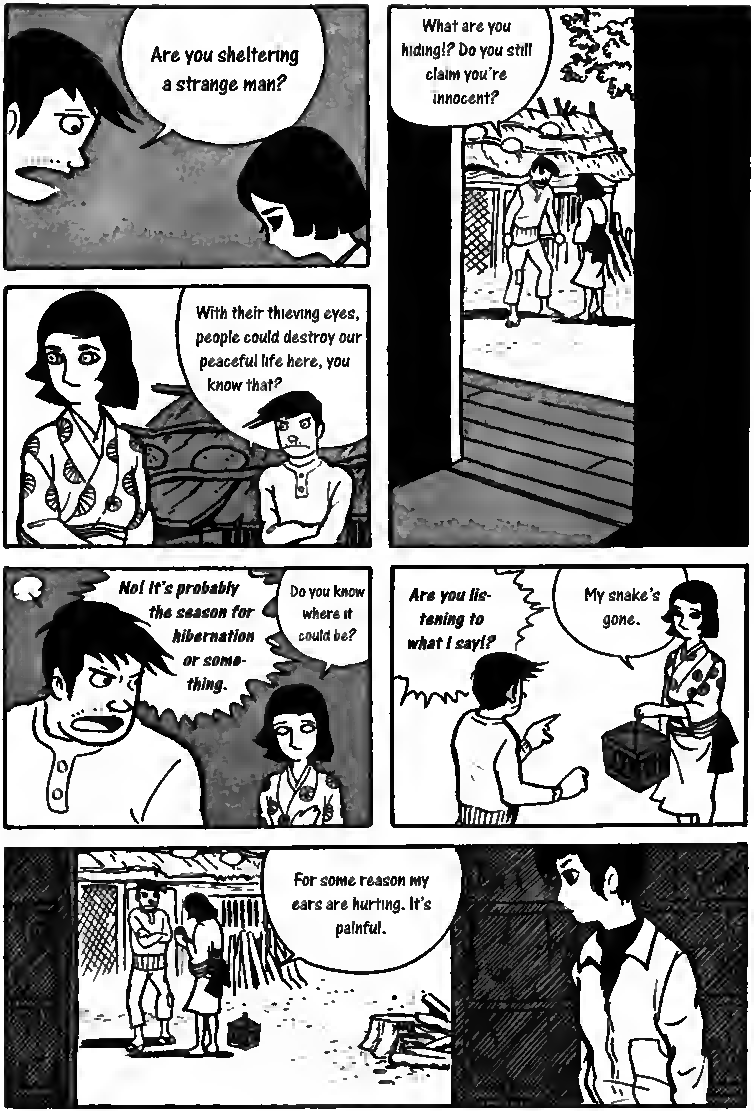
This cage was originally used to raise quail chicks, but one day the snake came and ate them all.
It entered it on its own will
Why do you keep a snake in a bird cage!?
We did try to throw the snake out, but since it was calm I decided that it might as well stay here
What!?
It frequently comes out and wraps itself around my neck
Oh, it does.
That snake doesn't get out, does it?

I wonder, why do you let such a thing happen?
I'm not lying. That's what it frequently does while I sleep.
You're pulling my leg, right? That snake doesn't really wrap itself around your neck, does it?
I used to have a dream in which I'd a snake strangle me until I died. It felt good.

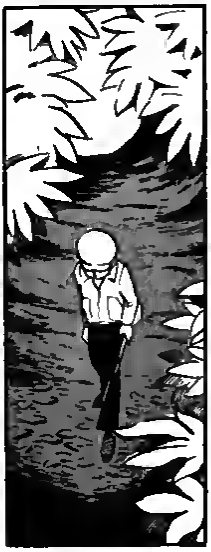
It's one a.m. already...
And I still can't sleep.
Klang
Sleeping peacefully


URK
Aaaah
...

it's
morning
...


Are you sheltering a strange man?
What are you hiding!? Do you still claim you're innocent?
With their thieving eyes, people could destroy our peaceful life here, you know that?
No! It's probably the season for hibernation or something.
Do you know where it could be?
Are you listening to what I say!?
My snake's gone.
For some reason my ears are hurting. It's painful.

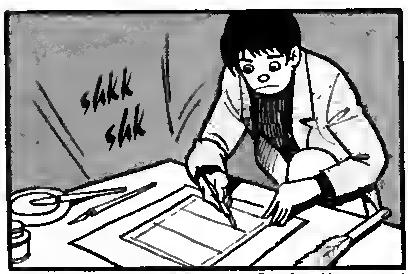
You can't keep that snake as your pet forever, you know.

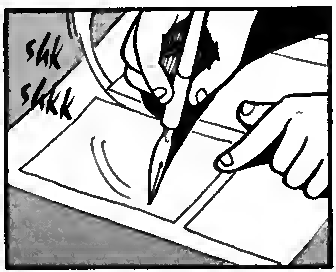


"Marsh" - End (February 1968)

Yoshiharu Tsuge presents:

Chico





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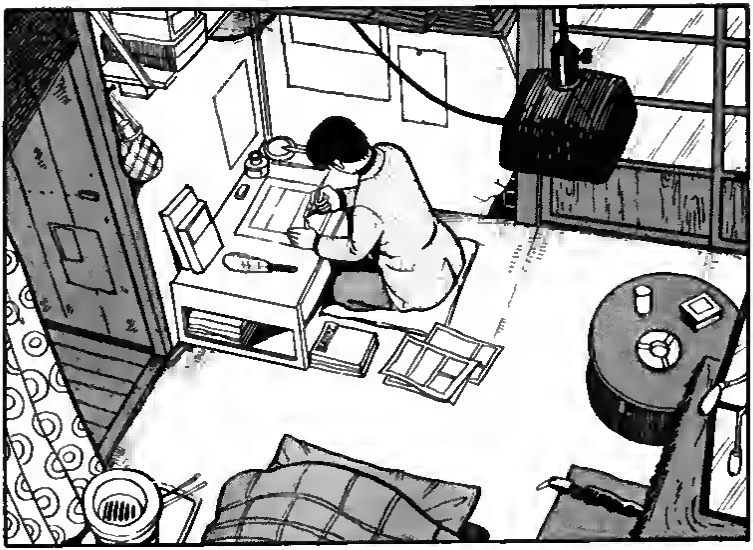
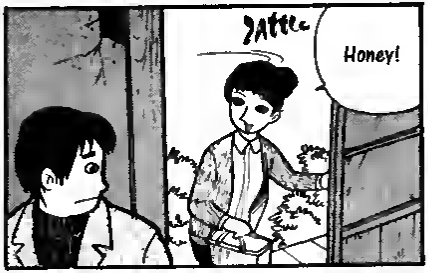


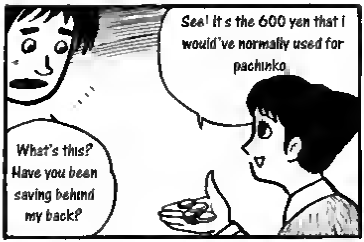

Honey!

Pheeew

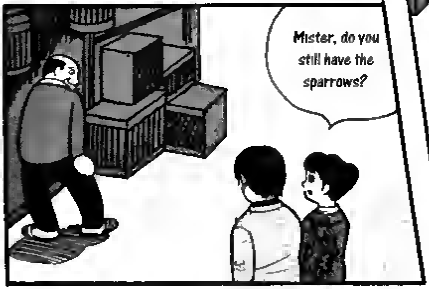
But, what is it?
Hey, is it okay if we buy it?!

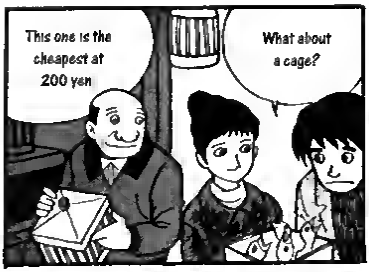
What was it?
I just saw something really neat!

And guess what? Today I saw some Java sparrow chicks in the bird shop in front of the station. They were so tiny!
I've wanted one for a while now.
A Java sparrow?
A Java sparrow
Its body is pure white except for its beak, which is a deep red...
What kind of bird is a Java sparrow, anyway?
It's cute. Isn't that enough?
Aw, come on...
What are we gonna do with a bird?
But it'll be troublesome, and we'll have to feed it everyday.
C'mon, let's buy one.
≥Hmph≤
The bird shop's owner told me today that if you raise them from when they're still chicks, they become very attached to you and will never try to escape.
That's expensive!
600 yen.
How much does it cost?
≥Tch≤ So that's a no.

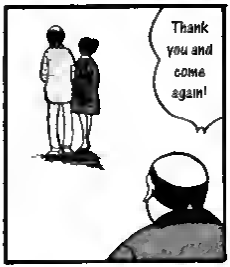


* Pachinko: A Japanese gambling game played on a vertical pinball machine

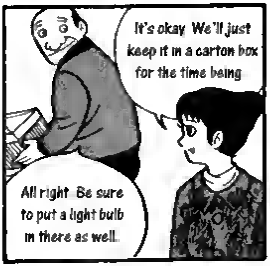



This one is the cheapest at 200 yen
What about a cage?

Look! They're so cute!


Thank you and come again!

I'll throw in the birdseed for free.
Oh! That's more like it!

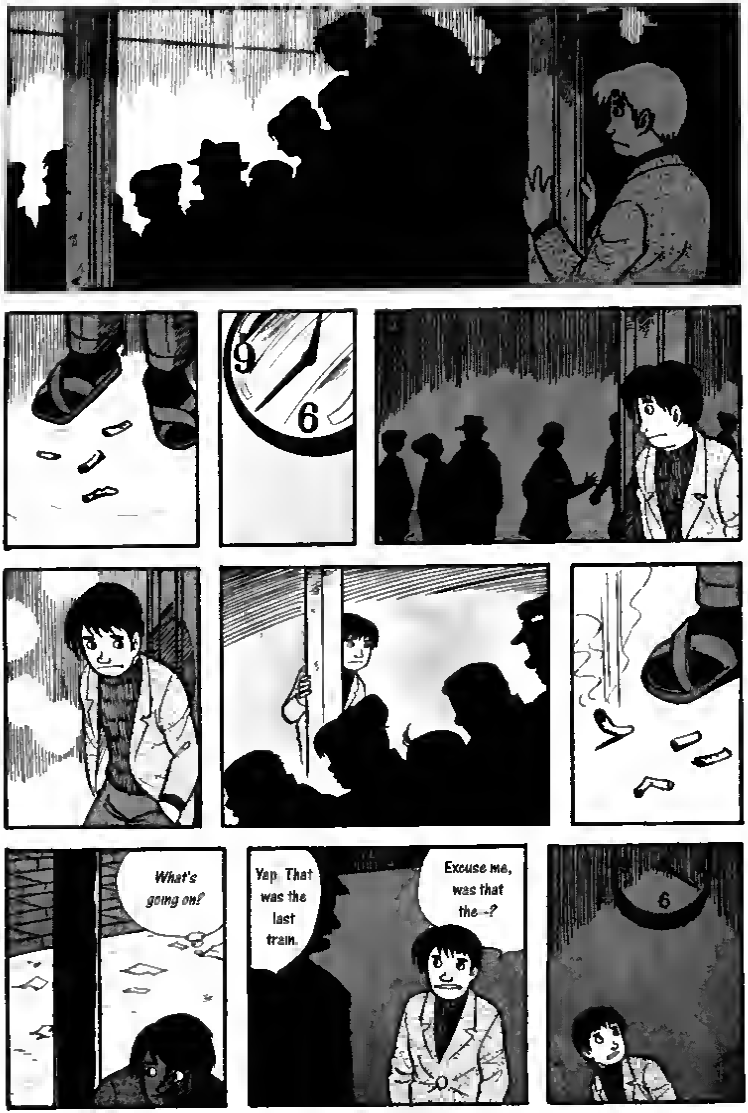

It's okay. We'll just keep it in a carton box for the time being.
All right. Be sure to put a light bulb in there as well.

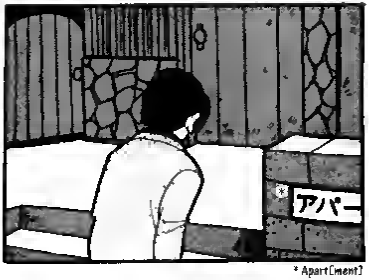
Will do.
Remember to soften up the food with water first.

klik
klik
klik
klik

Well, honey, I'm off!

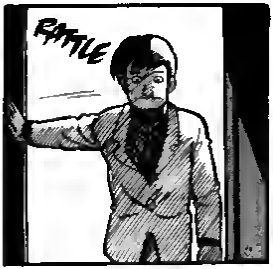
You sure eat a lot
munch munch munch
chew chew
chew chew chew chew
beep beep beep
I've got to fix myself something to eat, too


What's going on!
Yep. That was the last train.
Excuse me, was that the--?

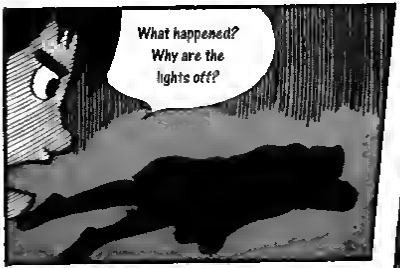

アパー

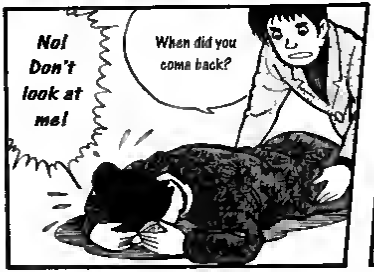
* Apart[ment]

Could she have already gone home?


BATTLE

What the? The door is unlocked!


What happened? Why are the lights off?


No! Don't look at me!
When did you come back?

Why d you drink alcohol when you know you can't handle it?!
My face feels like it's swollen
My heart's beating so fast it hurts.
Your whole face is red!
Are you drunk?
There are also customers with refined tastes, you know.
Today was a special occasion. For the first time, a customer chose me *
It's absolutely not like you to touch alcohol
it couldn't be helped I was out with a customer
I couldn't possibly turn him down after he went out of his way to choose me.
I waited for you for two and a half hours at the station!
And you were out with him until just now?
He's absolutely gorgeous, and while he's the same age as you he drives his own car.
I don't remember. The roads were so dark....
Where did you go?
We went to Shinjuku to have a few drinks and then we went for a little drive
Where did he take you in his car?

* This suggests that she works at a hostess club

Would you stop talking like that, please?!
That's odd
A bit suspicious, too
I don't know, okay?
Come on, you've got to remember something! Hey! What was the area like?
Let's not forget that you were the one who said it was just a makeshift solution!
If you care that much about me, why don't you go ahead and make me quit working at that place, huh?
Aren't you gonna take a look at the sparrow?
Ah! This is so frustrating!

Honey, look! Even with the window open, he doesn't fly away
Flap flap
Ship ship ship
What a playful bird.
No, Chico, don't interrupt his work!
Look here, Chico, Chico
Aah, it hurt!
Wow! Women have nose hair, too?!
Yuck, he pulled a hair out of my nostril
=Ouch!=

Heh Heh Heh
Wah hah hah hah
No! Why are you laughing?! Why are you laughing?!
Wah! It's so dirty!
ɔptuɛ ɔptuɛ
Chico is the blue bird of happiness! *
We've stopped fighting ever since Chico started living with us
I know! I'll draw a picture of you
Tada! Are you surprised?
Lookie, lookie!
shk shk
I draw for a living, you know

** Cocoa

* A Japanese idiom that has its root in Maurice Maeterlinck's play *L'Oiseau Bleu* (*The Blue Bird*), in which a brother and sister search for a magic bird of happiness in a dream kingdom

Peace
Hey! I told you not to move!
It's done!
Now I only have the face left.
Peace
♪ Hah hah hah ♪ Just be patient for a little while!
Up you go!
Higher and higher!
One more time.
How clever!

cheep
cheep
cheep
cheep
GRAB!
SWIPE
SYEE—!!!
ak
ak
ak
Now your beak has turned completely white, too

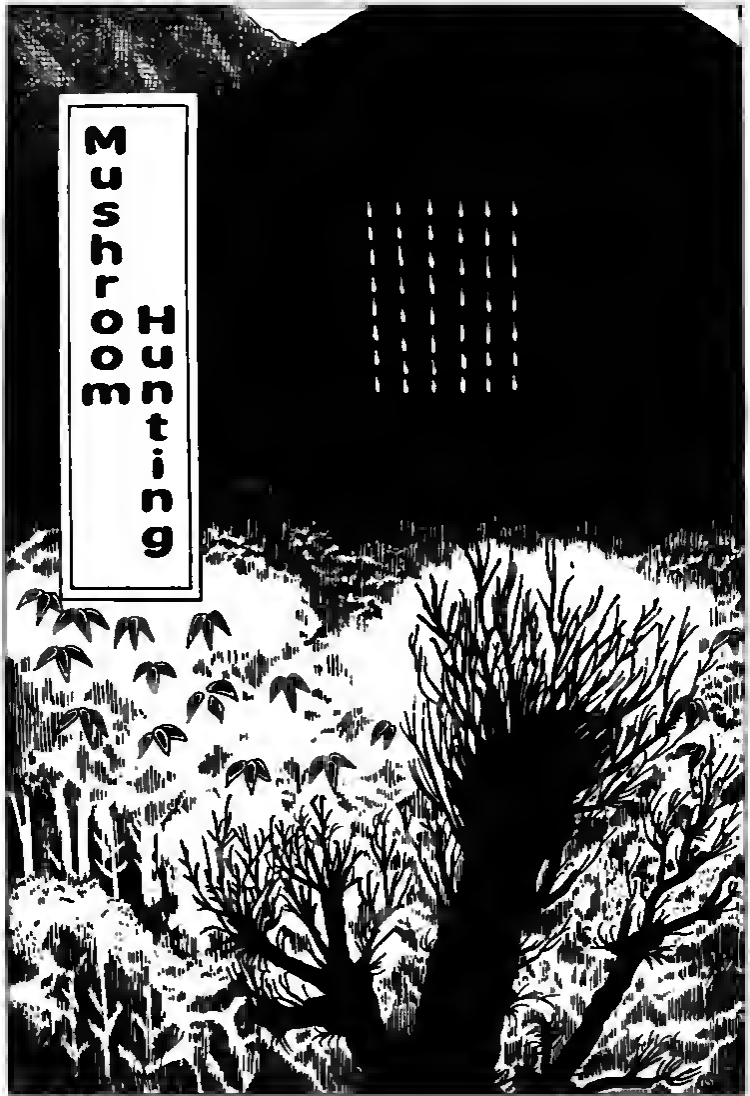
I can't believe you
Do you still doubt my words?
I swear it's true!

It doesn't make sense! Most birds are night-blind. They wouldn't fly away at night!
Because I loved Chico too much, you got jealous and decided to kill him.
You're wasting your time. You won't find him there!
That's the neighbor's yard. You're gonna get yelled at if you dig around too much.
Oh, Chico...
Did he really fly away?
See, here he is!
WHAT?!
Honey, I saw Chico!

¡AH!
Chico,
Chico
Looks like the
real thing,
doesn't it?
Ssh Ssh
Chico!
Chico!
¡Ah!

"Chico" - End (March 1968)

Yoshiharu Tsuge presents:



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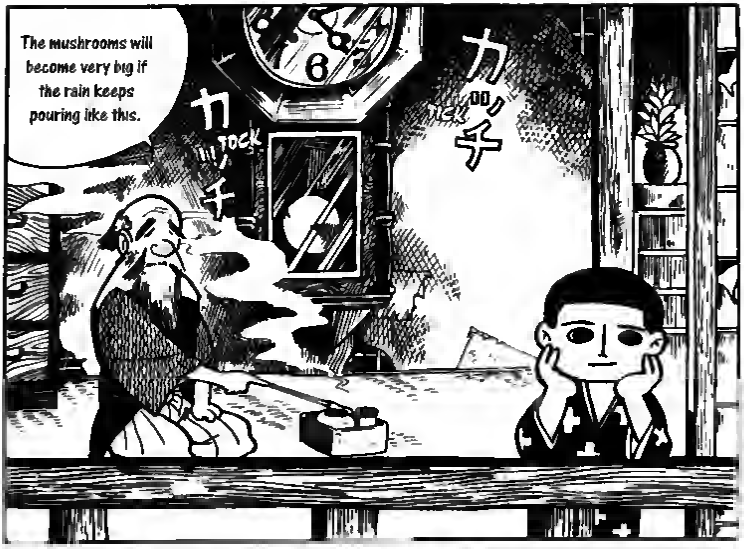
SHAA
SHAA
Really, Grandpa?
Shouta, let's go hunt some hatsutake* tomorrow, shall we?
The area around that red pine will be a good place.

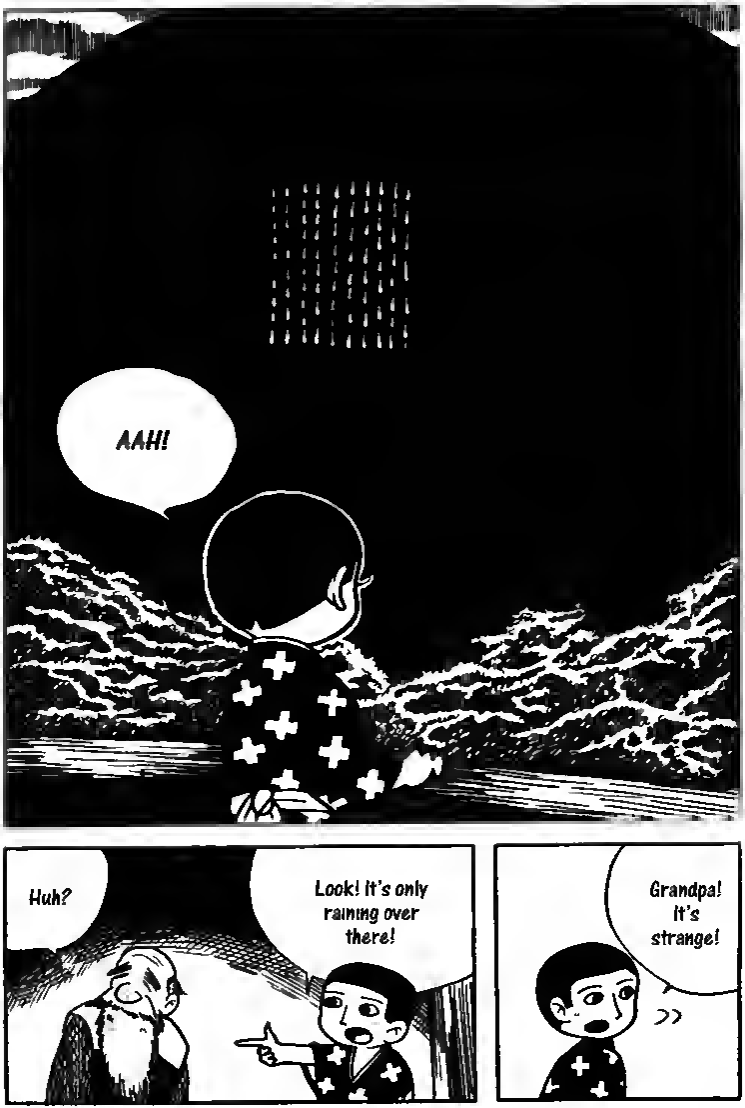
* A special sort of mushroom that can usually be found at the beginning of the mushrooming season (mid/end September.)


The mushrooms will become very big if the rain keeps pouring like this.
カチ
TOCK
カチ
DD
カチ

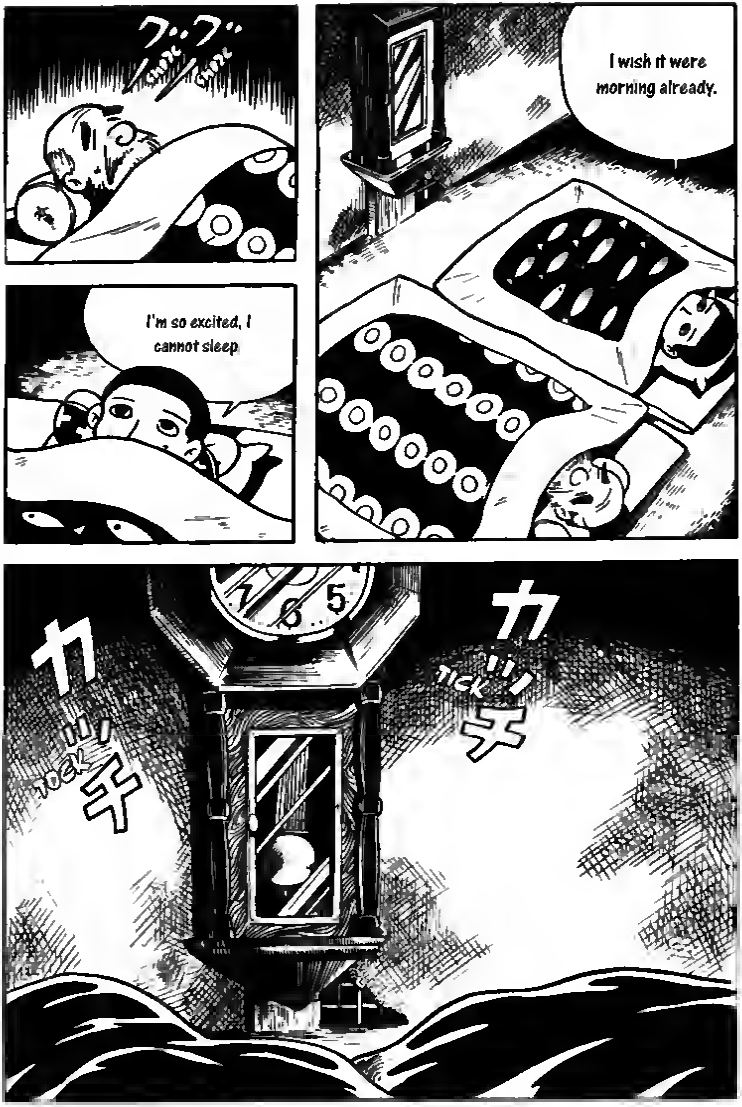
SHAAAA
SHAAAA

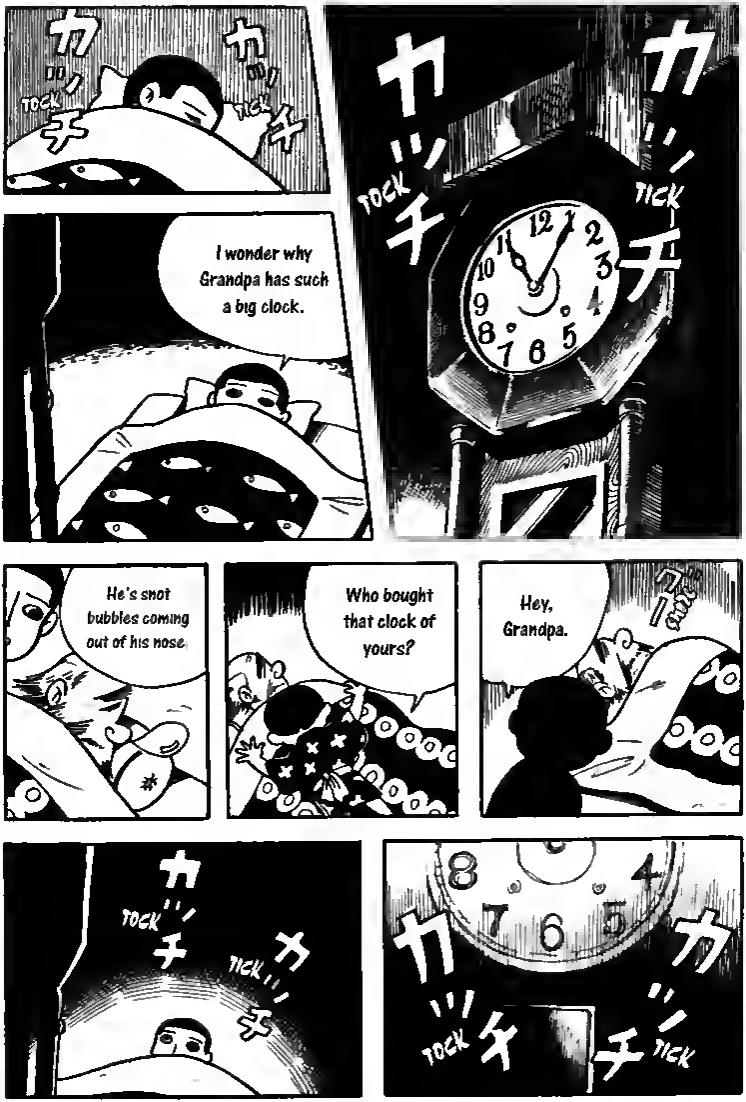
That's great. I wish it just keeps raining more and more then.

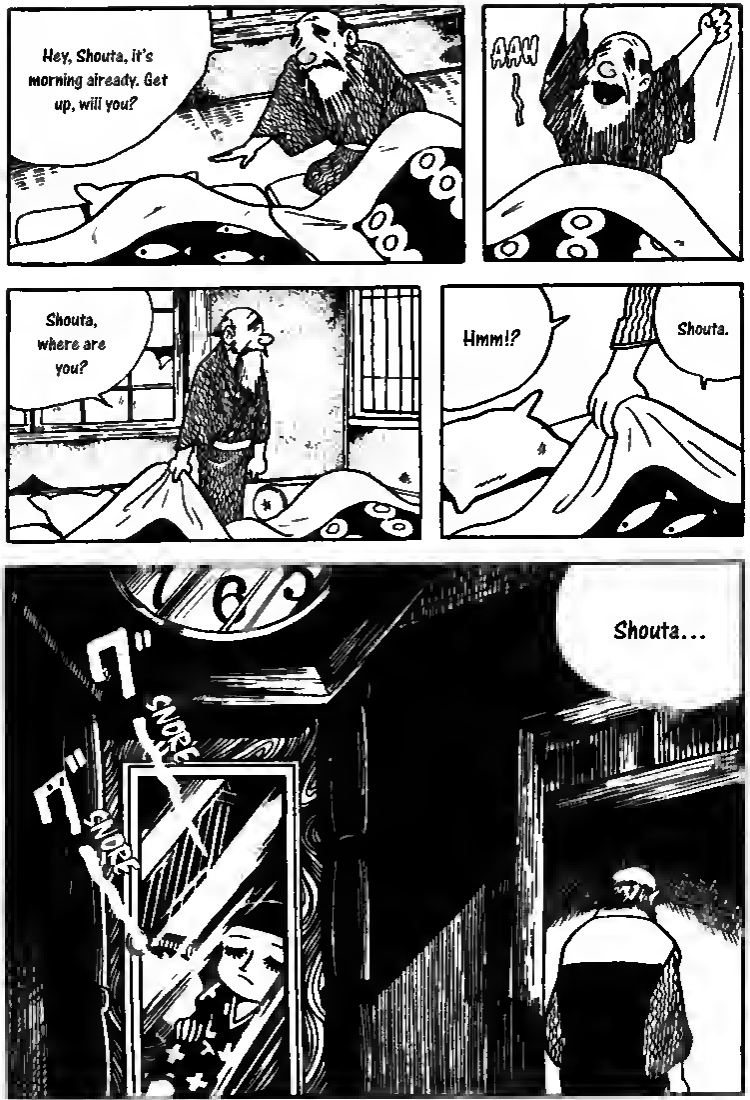
Ha ha ha. If it keeps raining like this tomorrow, we'll be in trouble


AAH!
Huh?
Look! It's only raining over there!
Grandpa! It's strange!
>>

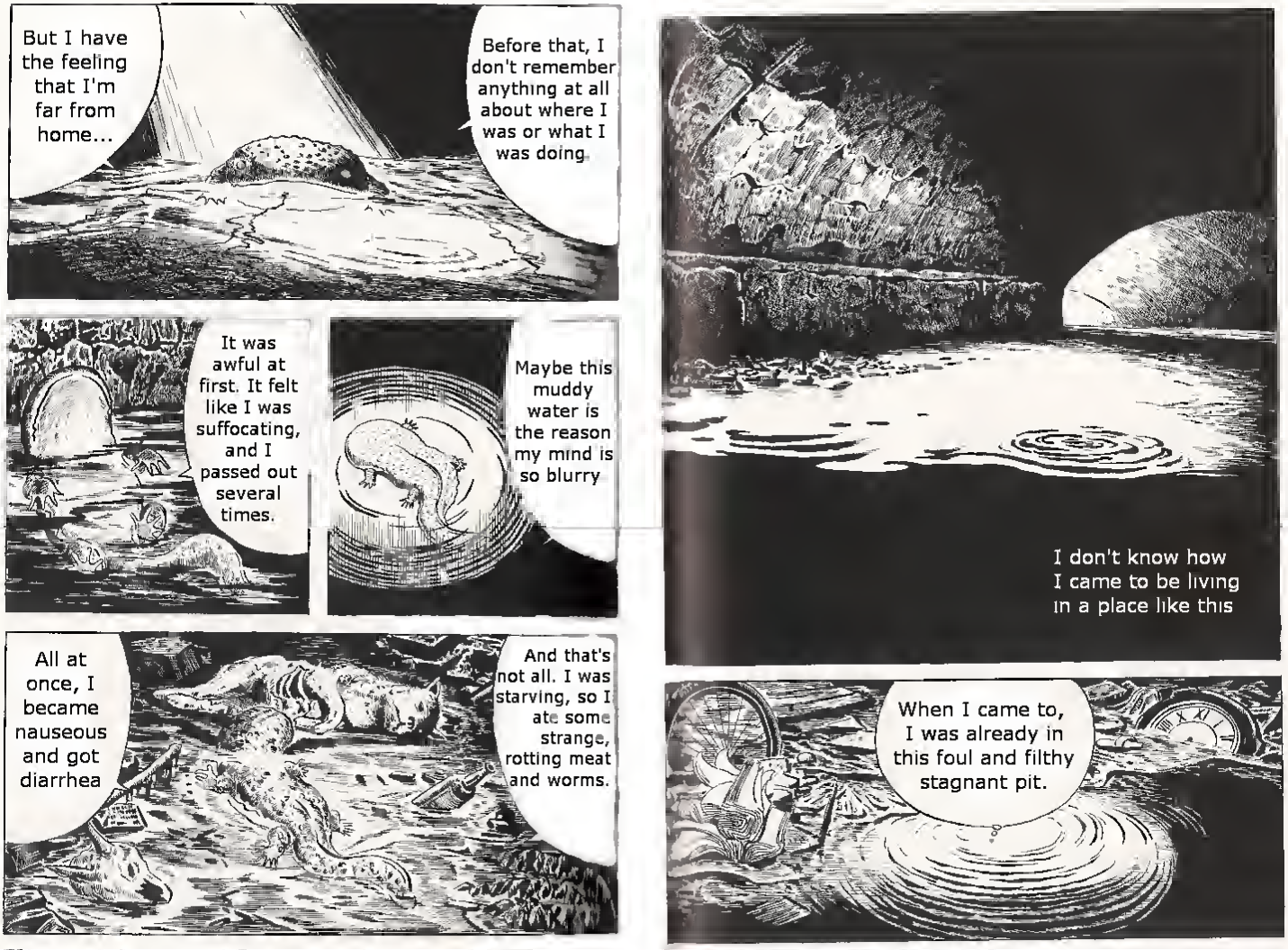
Hmm, but that's the only place that stands in the back's shade. Let's go over there so we can get a clear look at the rain.
Some splendid mushrooms are sure going to grow there!
Ho, Ho! It's just raining around that red pine
Look! Isn't the rain falling there just perfectly?
Come over here. We should hit the hay early today.
Grandpa, the rain has stopped
I won't take you along if you oversleep tomorrow morning

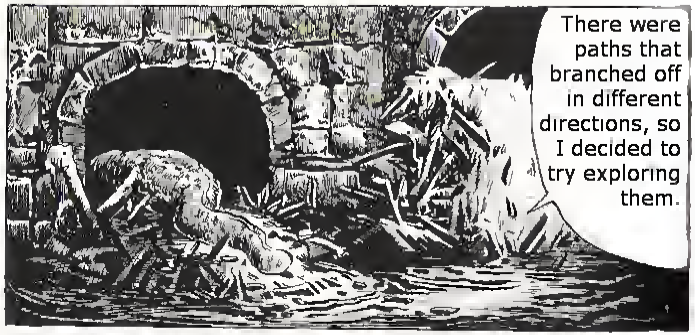

クッ クッ
I wish it were morning already.
I'm so excited, I cannot sleep.
カ
TICK
チ
カ
TICK
チ

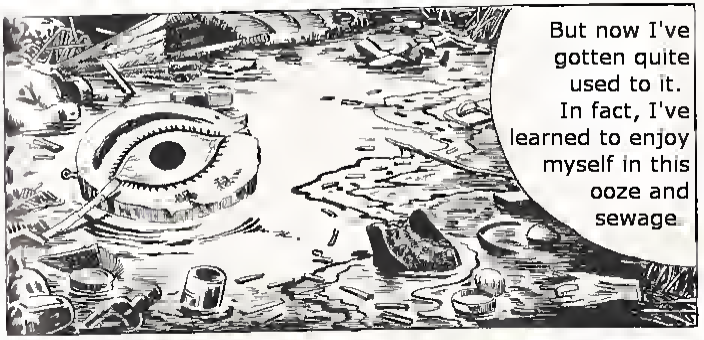

カッチ TOCK
カッチ TICK
I wonder why Grandpa has such a big clock.
He's snot bubbles coming out of his nose.
Who bought that clock of yours?
Hey, Grandpa.
Zzz...
カッチ TOCK
カッチ TICK



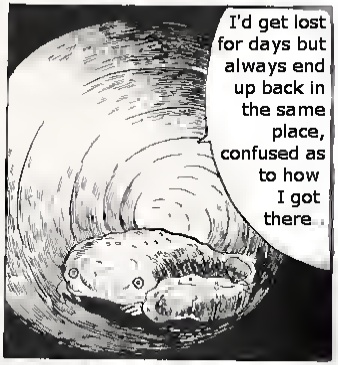
"Mushroom Hunting" - End (April 1968)

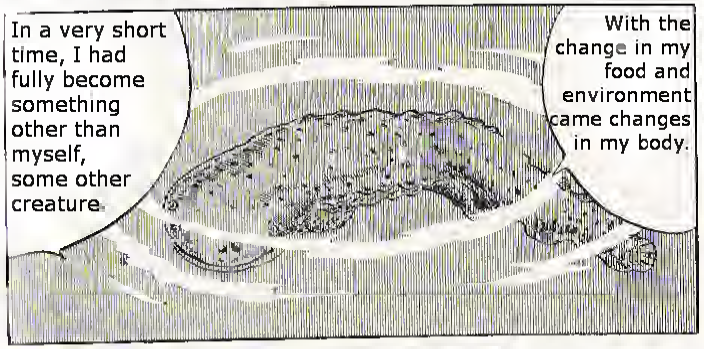

But I have the feeling that I'm far from home...
Before that, I don't remember anything at all about where I was or what I was doing.
It was awful at first. It felt like I was suffocating, and I passed out several times.
Maybe this muddy water is the reason my mind is so blurry
I don't know how I came to be living in a place like this
All at once, I became nauseous and got diarrhea
And that's not all. I was starving, so I ate some strange, rotting meat and worms.
When I came to, I was already in this foul and filthy stagnant pit.

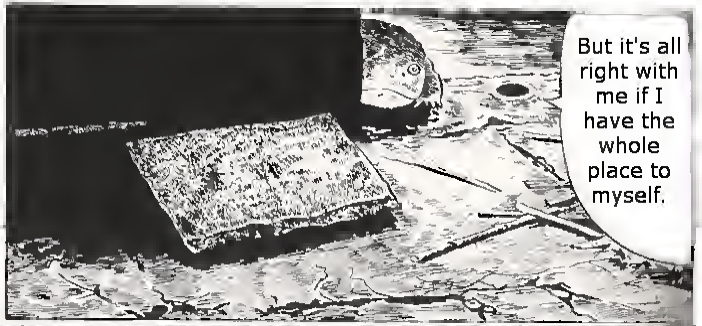

There were paths that branched off in different directions, so I decided to try exploring them.


But now I've gotten quite used to it. In fact, I've learned to enjoy myself in this ooze and sewage.

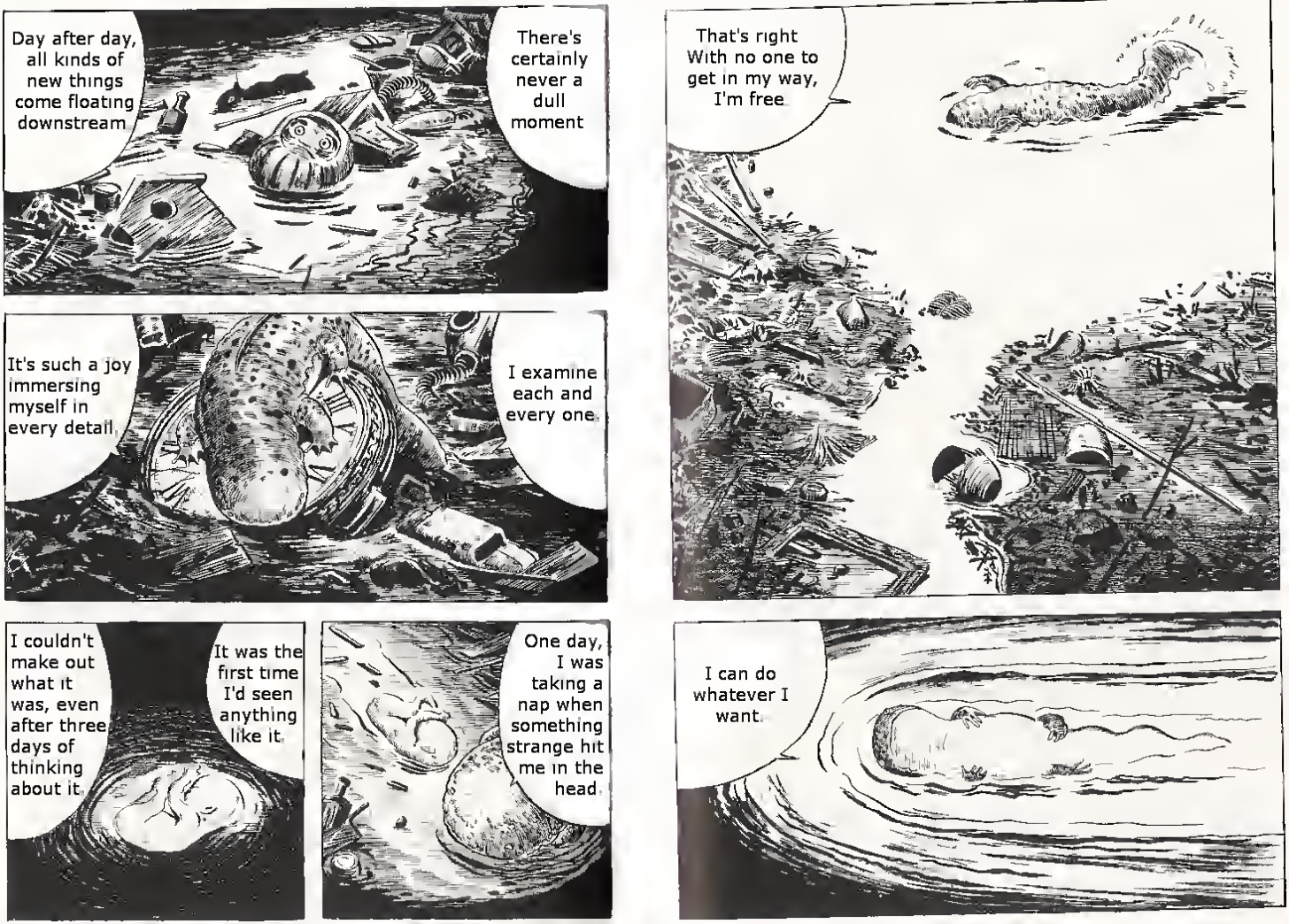
Come to think of it, I haven't seen anyone else down here in this pit.

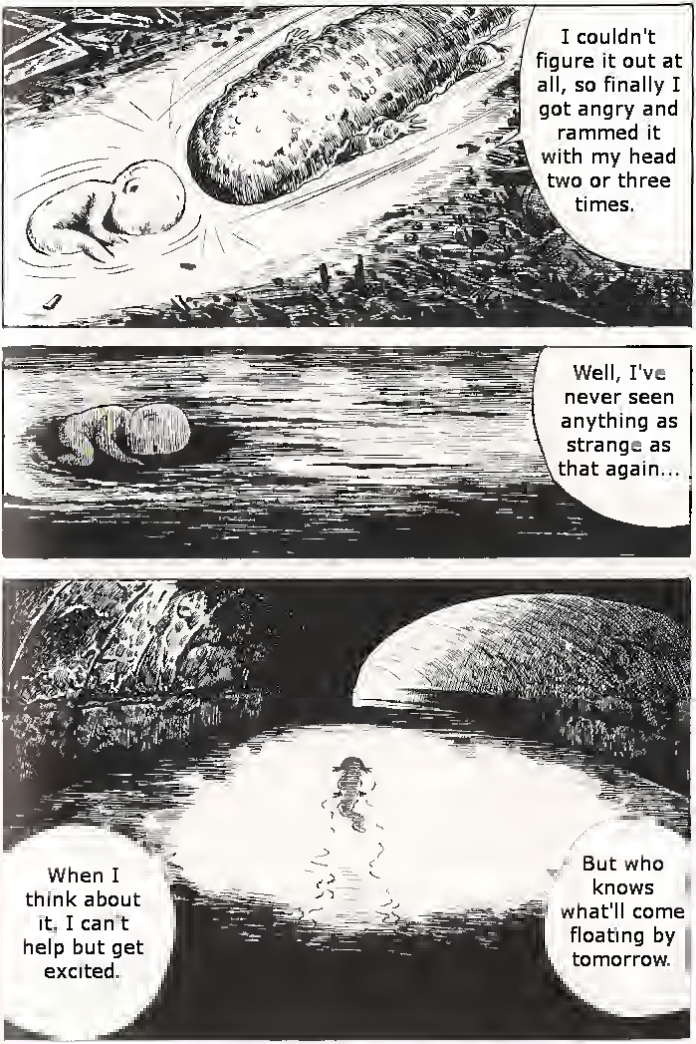

I'd get lost for days but always end up back in the same place, confused as to how I got there.


In a very short time, I had fully become something other than myself, some other creature.
With the change in my food and environment came changes in my body.


But it's all right with me if I have the whole place to myself.

I grew nearly three times in size, and sometimes when I looked at myself, my body had a strong black luster. To be honest, it felt good.


Day after day, all kinds of new things come floating downstream
There's certainly never a dull moment
It's such a joy immersing myself in every detail.
I examine each and every one.
I couldn't make out what it was, even after three days of thinking about it.
It was the first time I'd seen anything like it.
One day, I was taking a nap when something strange hit me in the head.
That's right With no one to get in my way, I'm free.
I can do whatever I want.


I couldn't figure it out at all, so finally I got angry and rammed it with my head two or three times.
Well, I've never seen anything as strange as that again...
When I think about it, I can't help but get excited.
But who knows what'll come floating by tomorrow.